THE INDEPENDENT

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Secret Tory plot to sabotage Blair

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE has secretly ordered Tory peers to adopt a "zero-tolerance" policy towards all government legislation, including its plan to abolish the rights of hereditary peers.

The edict, in a Conservative Party document leaked to *The Independent*, embarrassed the leadership. Labour and the Liberal Democrats said Mr Hague had been "caught red-handed" waging "guerrilla warfare" against the Government in the Lords. It showed he planned to derail other measures to fight Tony Blair's plans to end the right of the 750 hereditaries to speak and vote in the second chamber. The official Tory line is to oppose the measure because the Government has not set out its plans for wider reform of the Lords, including a democratically elected element.

But the briefing note on the Queen's Speech, sent to peers and MPs by Conservative Central Office, suggests Mr Hague will mobilise his big majority in the Lords to cause maximum disruption to the Government in the coming parliamentary year. The Tories have 471 peers, including 300 hereditaries, to Labour's 166, who include 18 who inherited their titles.

The document says: "We are sure the Lords will not obstruct legislation for the sake of it – but, in the face of an overbearing government, we would not be surprised if peers adopted a policy of 'zero tolerance' towards bad legislation. They would have our backing if they did." Ministers accused Mr Hague of "going to the wall" to preserve the 900-year-old rights of the unelected earls, dukes and viscounts. Baroness Jay, Leader of the Lords, said: "If William Hague and the Tories are prepared to die in the ditch for the Tory hereditaries, they will move themselves even further from an electorate which resoundingly rejected them at the last election."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the document showed Mr Hague was using the Lords to launch "a war of attrition" against the Government's programme. In Parliament's *House Magazine* he said: "Mr Hague has, sadly, encouraged the Conservative Party in the Lords to ride roughshod over the usual conventions, and by doing so he has led his troops up a suicidal cul-de-sac."

The Tories denied they intended to sabotage the Bill on hereditary peers. The leaked document made clear they would abide by the Salisbury Convention, under which the Lords does not vote against measures in the election manifesto of the winning party. But this would not stop them delaying the Bill by tabling hundreds of amendments. A Tory spokesman said: "It is not the job of the Opposition to acquiesce with a government that is vandalising our constitution. If Labour thinks the Conservative Party will allow it to do something that runs counter to the interests of the British public, it is even more arrogant than we thought." He said the Tories had offered to enter talks with the Government on a coherent set of wider reforms to the second chamber but had been rebuffed by ministers.

The document emerged as Labour and the Tories prepared for a new battle over the powers of the Lords next week. Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, yesterday said the Bill to bring in proportional representation for June's elections to the European Parliament would be rushed through the Commons next Wednesday. It would then be sent to the Lords, which scuppered the measure in the last parliamentary session by rejecting it on five occasions. Last night Tory sources said the Opposition would not co-operate with the Bill because it would allow people to vote only for a party and not individual candidates. The Tories would table amendments allowing voters to support individuals.

The continuing Tory fight against the measure means it is unlikely to become law by January – the deadline set by ministers. This would mean the June elections being fought under the existing first-past-the-post system.

Michael Grade, chairman of the Millennium Experience review group, hosting the unveiling – at last – of the Millennium Dome contents yesterday *Glynn Griffiths*

A 90ft cuddle to launch the millennium

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE NEW Millennium begins with a cuddle. This is New Millennium Man putting a protective arm round New Millennium Woman.

To the Government's relief, the 90ft-tall reclining figures, which will form the centrepiece of the Millennium Dome, subscribe to New Labour family values and appear on the surface to be heterosexual. The original idea of a figure without gender has apparently been discarded: too controversial no doubt in these muck-raking times.

The Dome, whose contents and sponsors were announced yesterday, will show a cosy, cuddly, all too familiar Britain. We will all eat McDonald's (we'll have to; it is putting up £12m sponsorship). We will gaze at cosmetics from Boots the Chemist (we'll have to; it is also putting up £12m sponsorship for the Body zone).

The organisers are euphoric. They promise an "awe-inspiring live Millennium show will run up to six times a day featuring acrobatics, trapeze artists, stilt-walking and abseiling."

The price of a ticket is not yet known; but there is already controversy over defence companies putting money in, and we need a strike-free year to guarantee that there will be transport to take us there.

Oh, and no one has yet signed a contract to sponsor the Spirit zone. Religion, even at the dawn of the new Millennium which allegedly celebrates it, is proving less sexy for sponsors than Mammon, which has its own zone and a sponsor.

But that's Britain 400 days from the opening of the Dome. Uncertain but cuddly.

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FA cracks down after transfer revelations

BY STEVE BOGGAN

TRANSFERS INVOLVING foreign footballers could come under the scrutiny of the Football Association because of a number of controversial deals revealed by *The Independent*.

The FA announced yesterday that it was examining proposals that would result in tighter controls over the way agents and clubs buy and sell players. If adopted by the Premiership and the football leagues, the plans being considered could result in the FA acting as a clearing house for the transfers of foreign players, where the amounts paid, sums received and agents' fees would all be publicly recorded.

The FA was forced to take action in response to revelations in *The Independent* over transfer deals involving two Chinese players, who arrived at Crystal Palace in the summer, and one Swedish striker who went to Portsmouth.

Inquiries in China revealed that the authorities there were expecting to receive $1.5m (£950,000) for Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai, £400,000 less than Crystal Palace, managed by the former England coach Terry Venables, had agreed to pay. Both sides in the deal have now resolved their differences after the Chinese agreed to accept the higher figure.

It is understood that concern at the FA's Lancaster Gate headquarters reached a peak yesterday afater *The Independent's* disclosure that one agent, Tom Lawrence, of Strata Sports Marketing, attempted to cream off £125,000 from a £200,000 deal involving the Swede, Mathias Svensson.

The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "We are looking at proposals for transfer arrangements where all parties would be obliged to sign up to a new form of transfer agreement.

"This would remove a lot of the grey areas that are seen in some transfer deals."

We must press on, Blair tells Irish MPs

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE SOUTHERN Irish political system took Tony Blair to its heart yesterday, affection and hard political calculation combining to produce a warm welcome for the Prime Minister.

Both houses of the Irish Parliament, the Dail and Senate, together gave a standing ovation to the man they believed had made a huge personal contribution to the peace process.

The invitation to Mr Blair to address the Dail and Senate, an honour never before extended to a British prime minister, was designed partly as a reward for his part in putting together the Good Friday Agreement and partly as an effort to build even closer relations with a prime minister thought likely to be in office for a decade or more. The prospects for young people dominated the rhetoric of Mr Blair's speech. He declared: "My sense of urgency and mission comes from the children in Northern Ireland. I reflect on the sheer waste of children taught to hate when I believe passionately that children should be taught to think."

Afterwards Mr Blair, delighted with his reception, said: "It is important now that we crack on with this – that we get north-south bodies agreed, get the departments agreed, that we are able to make real progress – and that we measure that progress in days rather than weeks or months."

However, Mr Blair conceded that no breakthroughs had been made on paramilitary arms or governmental arrangements in Belfast.

Mr Blair's day of talks in Belfast on Wednesday is seen as the beginning of a reinvolvement by the Prime Minister in a process that has often relied for progress on his personal intervention.

The Prime Minister's visit yesterday came on the day that two IRA men, jailed for their involvement in the murder of two British soldiers, were released from the Maze Prison under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. Alex Murphy and Henry Maguire were jailed for life for their part in the torture and shooting of Corporals David Howes and Derek Wood in March 1988.

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INSIDE THE REVIEW

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

IRA funeral killers released

BY ALAN MURDOCH

TWO IRA men, jailed for life for their involvement in the murder of two British soldiers, were released from the Maze Prison yesterday.

The men, Alex Murphy and Henry Maguire – jailed for their part in the torture and shooting of Corporals David Howes and Derek Wood – were given their freedom early under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

The soldiers were murdered in a mob frenzy after they drove into the path of a republican funeral in Belfast in March 1988.

The killings came at the end of two weeks of carnage. As the corporals, in plain clothes, came to a sudden stop in their car, many apparently feared a repeat of the indiscriminate attack by the Loyalist gunman Michael Stone at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast three days earlier.

Stone had thrown grenades and fired shots indiscriminately at mourners at the funeral of three IRA members shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar on 6 March that year. He killed three people, one of them Kevin Brady. Three days later the soldiers, members of the Royal Signals Regiment, drove into the path of Brady's funeral.

Republicans claimed that mourners, hearing the soldiers' car screech to a halt, believed they were under attack again and as the soldiers tried to reverse away their path was blocked by a line of taxis.

What caused particular horror was the fact that the initial attack on the two corporals, trapped by the dense crowd then dragged from the vehicle, was caught in grim detail on live television and by an army helicopter overhead.

Alex Murphy, sentenced to life for killing two corporals in west Belfast in 1988, leaving the Maze Prison yesterday under the early release scheme linked to the Good Friday Agreement *Crispin Rodwell*

The men were dragged from their vehicle and bundled into a nearby sports ground where they were stripped to their underwear and beaten. Murphy and Maguire then took them to wasteground where they were shot repeatedly by two gunmen.

The most poignant images to emerge from the day was of a priest, Father Alex Reid, on his knees beside the semi-naked, battered and mud-splattered bodies of the soldiers, administering the Last Rites.

Father Reid, the Redemptorist priest later to play a key role in peace diplomacy, came to the sports ground after the murder of the corporals.

Murphy and Maguire have each served 10 years of their life sentence. They were among four men – one a loyalist – given early release yesterday from the Maze and Magilligan Prison in Co Londonderry.

Half an hour before their release, Johnny Adair, leader of the loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters, was let out of the Maze for four days of parole.

Adair was convicted of directing terrorism in 1995 and sentenced to 16 years in prison. He was welcomed on his release by a crowd of about 50 supporters who bundled him into a car, which left in a convoy with horns blaring.

BRITAIN TODAY

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	4.07pm	to	8.17am
Birmingham	4.00pm	to	7.50am
Bristol	4.08pm	to	7.49am
Glasgow	3.53pm	to	8.18am
London	3.58pm	to	7.39am
Manchester	3.57pm	to	7.57am
Newcastle	3.47pm	to	8.02am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	-	-	12.18	10.5
Cork	11.04	3.9	11.37	3.8
Devonport	10.26	4.8	11.10	4.5
Dover	3.57	5.7	4.40	5.5
Dun Laoghaire	5.23	3.4	5.29	3.6
Falmouth	9.57	4.6	10.41	4.3
Greenock	5.39	3.1	5.57	3.2
Harwich	4.32	3.5	5.17	3.5
Holyhead	3.40	4.6	4.06	4.8
Hull (Albert Dk)	11.40	7.2	11.58	7.4
Kings Lynn	11.51	5.2	-	-
Leith	8.06	4.7	8.25	4.7
Liverpool	4.15	7.7	4.48	8.0
Milford Haven	11.35	5.6	-	-
Newquay	10.35	5.7	11.13	5.5
Portland	11.48	1.6	-	-
Portsmouth	4.39	4.1	4.55	4.0
Penzance	1.00	3.7	1.41	3.8
Scarborough	9.45	4.8	9.58	4.9
Wick	4.44	2.9	4.54	3.0

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

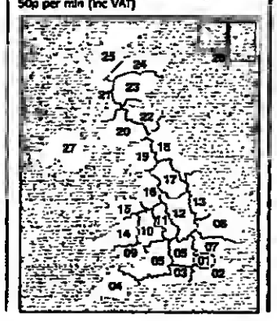
	NO_2	SO_2
London	Moderate	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 07.38
Sun sets: 15.58
Moon rises: 13.15
Moon sets: n/a
First Quarter: Today

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)



FORECAST

General situation England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with rain and drizzle spreading quickly eastwards during the morning. It should become mainly dry and very mild in the afternoon, but it will continue largely overcast with further drizzle near western coasts and hills. Scotland will also be mild but cloudy and damp with rain at times, especially in the west. Northern Ireland should become largely dry after a damp start, and there may be a few brief bright or sunny intervals in sheltered eastern counties.

London, Cent S & SE England, E Midlands, E Anglia, E England, Cent N & NE England: Mostly cloudy with rain and drizzle spreading from the west. The rain should peter out this afternoon and it will become very mild. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

Channel Is, SW & NW England, Wales, W Midlands, Lake District, Isle of Man: A dull and damp morning with sporadic rain and drizzle. This afternoon it should be drier, milder and a shade brighter with drizzle confined to western coasts and hills. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

N Ireland: A damp morning with patchy rain and drizzle, but it will be mostly dry this afternoon with a few bright spells in the east. A mild but blustery south-west wind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, W Isles: A mild but overcast day with rain at times, especially over the mountains. A strengthening south-west wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

Edinburgh, SE & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N Isles: Mostly cloudy with a little rain and drizzle, but it will become increasingly mild. A moderate south to south-west wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

OUTLOOK

Scotland and N Ireland will be colder, with a brisk south-westerly bringing sunshine and showers. England and Wales will be mild with rain across all areas. Sunday will be colder with sunny spells and showers, with rain in the west in the afternoon.

TRAVEL

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd Gyratory. Until 31st December.
Berkshire: M4 between J8/9 (Maidenhead) and J7 (Slough). New road layout with a 50mph speed limit during flood relief work. Until 30th November.
Cambridgeshire A1 between Alconbury and Haddon. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December.
Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 8 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001.
Norfolk: A47 Hardwick Roundabout, Kings Lynn (A10). Roadworks between the pullover roundabout and the Hardwick Roundabout. Until 13th December 1998.
West Yorkshire: M1 Between J42 Lofthouse Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourton. Roadworks and a 50mph speed limit. Until 31st December 1998.
AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Brixham 12C (54F)
Coldest (day): Altnaharra 7C (45F)
Wettest: Tulloch Bridge 0.67 ins
Sunniest: Stonehaven 4.5 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Thursday

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	Max °F
Aberdeen	0.9	0.01	8	46
Anglesey	1.7	0.01	11	52
Aviemore	0	0.04	7	45
Belfast	2.4	0.03	9	48
Birmingham	3.1	0	9	48
Bournemouth	3.9	0.03	11	52
Bristol	3.8	0.04	11	52
Buxton	4.3	0.02	7	45
Cardiff	1.2	0.03	11	52
Clacton	0	0.01	6	43
Cromer	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	0.4	0.01	9	48
Exmouth	2.6	0	10	50
Fishguard	0.7	0.26	9	48
Folkestone	0	0.26	7	45
Glasgow	0.3	0.10	9	48
Hastings	0	0.13	7	45
Hove	0.7	0.01	9	48
Isle-of-man	2.4	0.04	10	50
Isle-of-wight	3.8	0.08	9	48
Jersey	5.8	0.01	11	52
Kendal	0.6	0.23	9	48
Leeds	3.5	0.01	10	50
Lerwick	0.6	0.01	8	46
Littlehampton	3.3	0.10	9	48
London	1.1	0.03	7	45
Lowestoft	0	0.07	6	43
Manchester	4.2	0.02	9	48
Margate	-	-	-	-
Morecambe	1.1	0.15	9	48
Newcastle	3.2	0.04	9	48
Newquay	-	-	-	-
Norwich	0	0	6	43
Oxford	0.8	0.05	6	43
Ross-on-wye	2.7	0.03	9	48
Salcombe	-	-	-	-
Scarborough	0.2	0.01	5	41
Shrewsbury	-	-	-	-
Southend	0	0.13	7	45
Southport	-	-	-	-
Stornoway	0.7	0.20	8	46
Swanage	4.8	0.03	11	52
Tenby	1.7	0.20	11	52
Torquay	3.1	0	12	54
Weston-s-mare	-	-	-	-
Weymouth	3.8	0.01	11	52

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Wed'day: Information by PA WeatherCentre

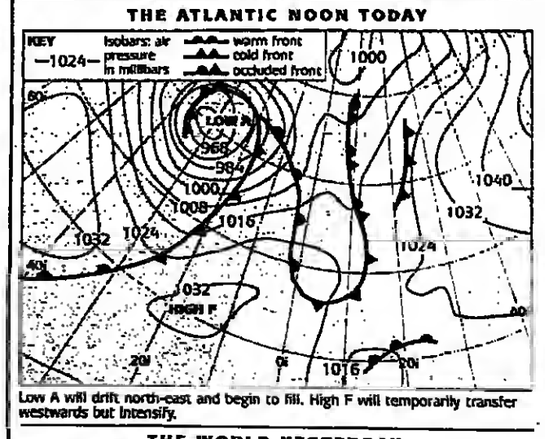
RAIN OR SHINE...

AN INACCURATE weather forecast may have lead to the deaths of a couple who set sail from the Isle of Man in what they believed were calm June seas, but were then hit a force 8 gale. Basil and Sachiko Caswell, from Nuneaton, would have listened to a shipping forecast which said the winds would die down, an inquest heard on Wednesday. Verdicts of accidental death were recorded.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



Low A will drift north-east and begin to fill. High F will temporarily transfer westwards but intensify.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

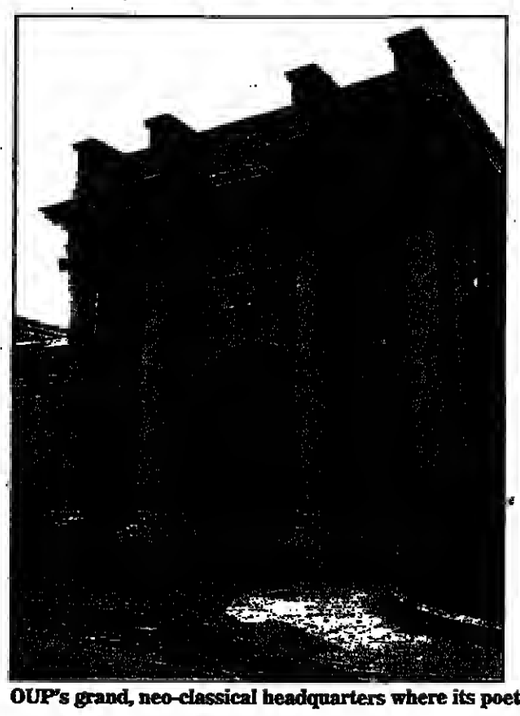
c,cloudy; dz,drizzle; f,fair; fg,fog; h,hail; hz,hazy; m,mist; r,rain; s,sunny; sh,showers; sl,sleet; sn,snow; ss,sandstorm; th,thunder. Most recent available figure, noon local time.

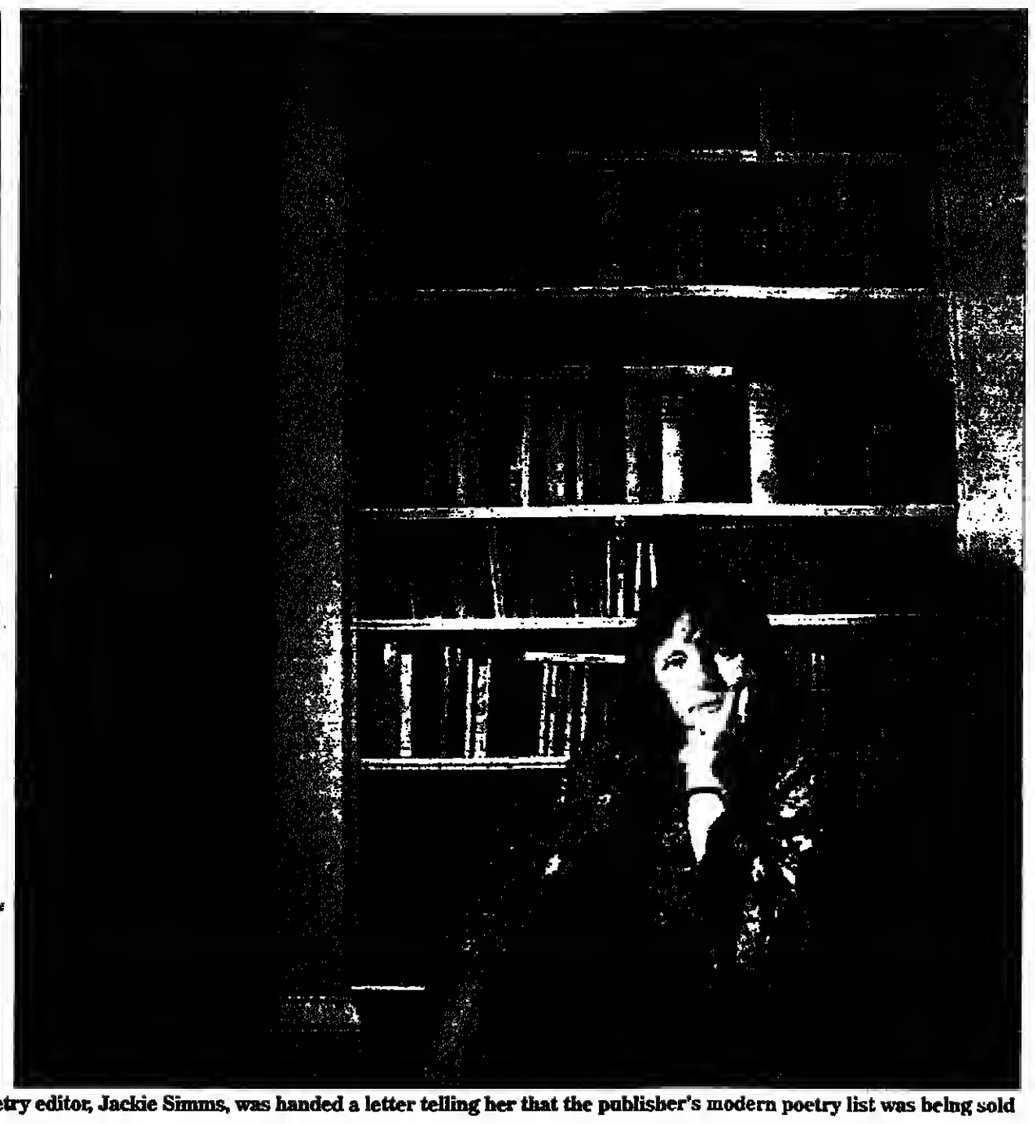
		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Adelaide	f	30	86	Chicago	r	11	52	La Paz	c	13	55	Prague	dz	-2	28
Algiers	th	12	54	Christchurch	f	11	52	Lagos	dz	31	88	Quebec	c	1	34
Alicante	s	19	66	Cologne	c	1	34	Lima	c	23	73	Reykjavik	f	-1	30
Amsterdam	c	3	37	Copenhagen	c	1	34	Lisbon	s	16	61	Rhodes	c	20	68
Anchorage	c	-9	16	Corfu	f	16	61	Los Angeles	s	18	64	Rio de Jan	f	32	90
Ankara	c	7	45	Crete	r	15	59	Madrid	f	13	55	Riyadh	s	27	81
Athens	r	13	55	Dakar	c	28	82	Majorca	f	16	61	Rome	c	12	54
Atlanta	c	20	66	Dallas	s	21	70	Malaga	s	19	66	San Fran	c	13	55
Auckland	c	18	64	Darwin	c	32	90	Malta	f	15	59	Santiago	f	27	81
Bahrain	s	29	84	Dubai	s	29	84	Manila	f	32	90	Seoul	s	10	50
Bangkok	f	33	91	Edmonton	c	0	32	Mecca	s	35	95	Seychelles	sh	28	82
Barbados	f	30	66	Faro	s	18	64	Melbourne	s	26	79	Shanghai	c	19	66
Barcelona	s	14	57	Florence	f	11	52	Mexico City	c	19	66	Singapore	c	33	91
Beirut	c	22	72	Frankfurt	c	1	34	Miami	f	27	81	St Pet'burg	c	-3	27
Belgrade	c	5	41	Funchal	c	20	68	Milan	f	8	46	Stockholm	m	2	36
Berlin	sn	-1	30	Geneva	c	3	37	Montreal	f	30	86	Sydney	c	19	66
Bermuda	s	20	68	Gibraltar	s	19	66	Moscow	c	2	36	T'aipei	f	27	81
Biarritz	c	12	54	Hanoi	c	25	77	Munich	sn	-10	14	Tel Aviv	f	23	73
Bogota	f	18	64	Harare	c	25	77	Nairobi	c	-1	30	Tenerife	s	24	75
Bombay	s	33	91	Helsinki	f	0	32	Naples	c	24	75	Tokyo	s	12	54
Bordeaux	f	12	54	Hong Kong	r	19	66	Nassau	c	14	57	Toronto	c	5	41
Boston	c	7	45	Honolulu	s	28	82	New Delhi	f	28	82	Tunis	c	14	57
Brisbane	f	25	77	Istanbul	c	14	57	New Orleans	s	23	73	Ulan Ude	f	-18	0
Brussels	c	4	39	Jakarta	s	34	93	New York	f	23	73	Valencia	s	18	64
Bucharest	c	-2	28	Jeddah	s	33	91	Nice	s	8	46	Vancouver	c	8	46
Budapest	sn	1	34	Jerusalem	f	23	73	Nicosia	c	11	52	Venice	c	9	48
Buenos Aires	f	20	66	Johannesburg	f	22	72	Oslo	c	21	70	Vienna	sn	1	34
Cairo	s	24	75	Karachi	s	29	84	Paris	c	0	32	Warsaw	c	-6	21
Calgary	c	8	46	Kathmandu	s	22	72	Peking	fg	5	41	Washington	c	11	52
Cape Town	s	21	70	Kiev	m	-3	27	Perth	m	0	32	Wellington	f	15	59
Caracas	f	29	84	Kingston	f	30	86	Port Stanley	c	21	70	Zagreb	-	-	-
Casablanca	f	19	66	Kuala Lumpur	f	30	86			9	48	Zurich	c	2	36



Stephen Romer and Jo Shapcott are among the poets axed by OUP whose list was founded by John Stallworthy

Oxford's poets fall foul of the bottom line





OUP's grand, neo-classical headquarters where its poetry editor, Jackie Simms, was handed a letter telling her that the publisher's modern poetry list was being sold

IT STARTED with a letter and became a fusillade of newspaper articles and donnish abuse. It started as a publishing-house memo and ended up rocking the most elderly and distinguished university in Europe. A tense 10-day war of nerves has ended with the decision by delegates of the 500-year-old Oxford University Press publishing house to ratify the cancellation of its poetry list – and with the revelation that the university was to blame all along.

It began on Tuesday 17 November, when Jacqueline Simms, the poetry editor at OUP, was handed a letter at the publisher's grand, neoclassical Oxford headquarters. "Your worst fears are confirmed", it said. "We are selling off the poetry list by the end of March". This was a bombshell, for both Ms Simms and the poets whose work she has published over the past 20 years. In the past three years, three publishers (Secker, Sinclair-Stevenson and Chatto) have cancelled their poetry lists or scaled them down to two or three books a year. If this went on, newly-fledged poets would find it impossible to get their stuff published – unless they were accepted by one of the Big Two players, Faber & Faber, and Oxford University Press ...

By 20 November, 26 poets had received their marching orders from Andrew Potter, the Mikado-esquely titled director of music, trade paperbacks and bibles publishing at OUP. He cited "very difficult market conditions" and said "We need to give priority to our core scholarly and educational publishing". Poetry, it seemed, didn't make enough money to justify the attention it needed.

The 26 suddenly-homeless writers include some of the finest talents at work today: Fleur Adcock, Thomas Kinsella, Michael Donaghy, DJ Enright, Alice Oswald, Jo Shapcott, Jamie McKendrick ... But was this the right moment for OUP to ditch Adcock, Enright and Shapcott, all of whom had recently been nominated for the British poet laureateship? And what would become of Peter Porter, who has two volumes of Collected Works out in February to celebrate his 70th birthday?

BY JOHN WALSH

"It's a bad day for serious literature when the most distinguished academic publishing house in Britain chooses to neglect contemporary literature," Porter told *The Times*. "It is an indication that something in Britain is getting more and more frivolous. The only thing that matters is the bottom line."

"There were a lot of painful conversations about it, but in the end I know it was the right decision," said OUP's Andrew Potter. "The poetry list was making the marketing people face in a different direction from the way they face when promoting the World's Classics series or the *Oxford History of Nursing*". But didn't the Oxford poets make a profit? "The list was barely covering its costs. And there's no point in doing it unless it's going to allow a reasonable dividend to go back to the original owners, who are the university."

But the Press makes a fortune out of selling classic poetry texts. Shouldn't it publish modern poetry as well? Mr Potter is sympathetic. "I feel a natural affinity with anything creative," he says. "But if it's preventing the trade books department from doing its job, disseminating scholarly texts, then I have to take account of that. Of course culture comes into it – but it's not a central part of it".

Jacqueline Simms, small, birdlike and harassed, has overseen the poetry list since taking it over from John Stallworthy in 1976. She is the Press's solo poetry editor and talent scout and has seen the cream of the modern poetry world pass through her hands. She does not, however, represent a wastrel element in the balance sheet. She is paid a £9,000 salary by the Press to oversee the publication of eight poetry books a year. She has a quarter-share in a secretary, and no other staff. For this tiny outlay, her labours produce a turnover of about £50,000 a year, a drop in the Press's £300m ocean. And Ms Simms is spitting fury about the death of her 20-year project. "I feel disgusted with the Press," she says. "It's an act of vandalism. They did it without consulting me, without telling me, without saying 'We have to do something – what do you recommend?'. It's outrageous. They talk about finding a new home for the 26 poets. I told them, it's a complete dream. You can't sell off the whole list like a sack of potatoes. Writers need nurturing. It just shows how shambolic the Press is". As it turned out, the poets were doing all right. By Monday afternoon, a dozen other publishers had extended Olympian hands into the churning flotsam of sacked versifiers and selected their favourites. At Random House, which owns 20 publishers, Cape and Chatto bid against each other for Jo Shapcott. Approaches were made from other houses to 15 of the homeless 26. But more important was the fallout across the university, as the dons gradually realised what had been done in their name.

For it seems that the real villains of the piece – the people responsible for the cancelling of the poetry list – are not the bean-counters of OUP, but the university itself. The Press is owned by Oxford University. It makes money – about £6m – for the university every year. The board of directors is composed of delegates from different faculties: literature, classics, history, chemistry, modern languages. The vice-chancellor of the university, John Lucas is chairman of the delegates. At the Press, the chief executive Henry Reece goes by the title of secretary to the delegates. Despite being dons rather than businessmen, the delegates have to ratify every decision agreed by the Press – including the disbanding of the poetry list. The next meeting, at which this historic decision would be taken, was on Tuesday, 24 November.

The stage was set for a showdown, a classic tussle between art and mammon, between literature and Philistine commercialism. Jackie Simms's former charges had rushed to her aid. Heavy friends had been enlisted: John Carey, the Merton professor of English, had pledged his support, as did Craig Raine at New College, and Elaine Feinstein and Richard Hoggart and David Constantine the Oxford historian. Michael Holroyd and the inner luminaries of the Royal Society of Literature fired off a letter to *The Times*. Hermione Lee wrote to the *Times Literary Supplement*. John Stallworthy, who founded the original Oxford Poets list in the Sixties, wrote to *Oxford Today* in spittle-flecked fury.

People muttered about the finance committee, which had approved Andrew Potter's plan to kill the poetry list. The committee's chairman is Sir Keith Thomas, the eminent historian, author of *Man and the Natural World, Religion and the Decline of Magic*. Did the decline of poetry mean nothing to him? Stallworthy wrote to Thomas, calling the decision "scandalous" and demanding to know what other parts of the Press were due to be axed. The OUP delegate from the English faculty, Christopher Butler, wrote to the finance committee to protest. And soon he would persuade the other delegates to see the error of their ways...

It didn't happen. At the crucial Tuesday meeting, arguments flew for an hour. How, the delegates demanded, could it have happened? The OUP, which once published Gerald Manley Hopkins, was being seen as anti-poetry. "The meagre sums of money you will save by cutting the poetry list," said one, "will hardly compensate for the flood of opprobrium that will ensue". Voices were raised. The businessmen from the academic division stood their ground. Then the delegates voted to ratify the finance committee's decision and the 30-year-old Oxford Poets imprint was a dead duck.

Why did it happen? It's because the university got too greedy. The administrators were worried about losing their special funding from the Government next year. For each student it takes on, the university administration gets a per capita grant that is £2,000 more than any other university gets, except for Cambridge.

The Oxford dons are afraid of losing it when New Labour reviews its grant arrangements in 1999. So, fearful for its beleaguered exchequer, the administration has encouraged the Press to maximise its profits. The vice-chancellor, so the story goes, told the secretary to the delegates to make the Press more commercial. The secretary told his management experts to rationalise the publishing schedule. Operating by business logic, they offered a plan which included the End of Poetry. Startled, but with the vice-chancellorial directives ringing in their ears, the finance committee approved it. So, eventually, did the dons on the board of delegates.

"Word came down from on high, telling Mr Reece and Co that they'd better generate more funds," one English don told me, "and it all got out of control. The dons found themselves trapped in a corner, being told what to do by ignorant accountants, and losing huge amounts of face by having to go along with it".

And thus Oxford University votes against the future of poetry. It is the damnedest spectacle.

THE POETRY AUDIT

By Martin Newell

A chill wind of accountancy
Swept down through Academe
"Who is this Muse?" asked auditors.
"What does she charge per dream?
And how much do these poets cost
In real terms each year?"
"Dunno..." an old professor said.
"They've always just been here.
With it being Academe an' that
You take the thing for granted
Like certain types of greenhouse flowers
They won't take being transplanted."

"We see," the auditors replied.
"Well here's what we're advising.
A programme pruning out dead wood,
In other words, downsizing.
The poetry list's redundant now
A sunset situation.
We want the OUP to be
A streamlined operation.
De-cruit the muse. De-job the poets.
The firm is in a coma.
It's wake-up time and by the way...
Who's this slacker, Homer?"

Placenta burial on TV show

PLACENTAS – once the preserve of nature programmes – now not only feature on cooking shows but have found their way on to a gardening series.

Next month, in what is being billed as a television first, a couple will be shown burying the placenta from the birth of their new-born son under a tree. Catriona Patterson and Steve Herbert, a Christian couple from Sheffield, believe this is the green way to dispose of an afterbirth. Ms Patterson, 24, a post-graduate student, saved the placenta from the birth of Estienne in the freezer for two months before the rite. "Some hospitals, though not Sheffield, sell the afterbirth to cosmetics companies. We wanted to do something more special, more environmentally friendly," she explained.

BY CLARE GARNER

Mr Herbert, a radio engineer, performed the post-natal ritual for the final part of the BBC2 series *Gardening Neighbours*, to be broadcast on 18 December. He buried the placenta, said a prayer for his son and marked the spot by planting a birch tree.

"I think the idea is that you return to the soil the goodness from which the baby drew its nourishment in its first months. We are Christians and I think if we can carry on that tradition, it's quite a nice idea," he said.

Some regard placentas as medicine for post-natal depression – and there are a number of ways of sweetening the pill. The Channel 4 programme, *TV Dinners*, favoured placenta paté, but Leslie Kenton, a health writer, chose to fry her son's afterbirth in onions.

The *TV Dinners* episode, which showed a family cooking and eating a placenta – not to be confused with polenta – prompted 21 complaints to the Independent Television Commission. However the watchdog ruled that programme did not breach its code on taste and decency.

The National Childbirth Trust (NCT) has published a book, *Placenta Special: Eat It or Plant It?* "It's a frequent topic among young mothers," said Philippa Wellborn, from NCT. "My personal opinion is: if it works for some, that's great. I have not had post-natal depression, but if I did, I'd try anything."

War torture: Veteran spits his defiance as Tokyo court throws out case after four-year legal proceedings

Japan PoWs lose claim for compensation

YESTERDAY MORNING, in a room in a Tokyo skyscraper, a group of dispirited old gentlemen were sitting in front of a group of Japanese reporters, attempting to explain the disappointment they had just suffered. After four years of legal proceedings and hours of emotional testimony, a court had rejected their claim for compensation for the sufferings they had experienced as wartime prisoners of the Japanese Imperial Army.

The old men were weary; the room was hot. Suddenly from the back, a commotion was heard as a figure in a blue blazer parted the knots of cameramen and strode to the front of the press conference. "I have just been round the corner to the front gate of the Japanese Diet," he boomed. "There, I spat upon the doorstep. Twice! There is no justice in this country! No justice! They are lying bastards!"

"That," someone explained to the dumfounded audience, as the vision swept out of the room again, "is Arthur Titherington."

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

Several tens of thousands of former prisoners of Japan survive in Britain alone. Two of them, and five other former soldiers and civilian internees from Australia, New Zealand and America, have been making the regular pilgrimage to the Tokyo District Court for the case that ended in defeat yesterday. But it is always Mr Titherington who stands out. During each of their visits to Japan, and whenever the issue has come up in Britain, he has come to the fore as the face and conscience of the former PoWs – outspoken, sometimes maudlin, often inappropriate, but equally witty, furious, and implacable.

He was a 20-year-old dispatch rider in the Royal Engineers when Singapore fell to Japan in 1942. "I was injured and the Japanese turfed us out of hospital," he says. "When I stepped outside the first *things I saw were a headless* body in the square and a woman whose baby was being bayoneted." He spent the rest of the war as a slave labourer in a copper mine in Taiwan. Of the 523 who entered, only 90 men left alive. After the war, like other PoWs, he received the equivalent of £76.50 in compensation.

He is a founder member of the Japan Labour Camp Survivors' Association, and the PoWs' plight is in the public consciousness as never before thanks to Mr Titherington.

His tactic is the face to face confrontation: cabinet ministers, ambassadors, MPs, and journalists in Britain and Japan have been on the receiving end of his harangues. The latest of them was visited upon the astonished Japanese journalists yesterday. "I don't hate you," he boomed (it is true – during his visits he has made several Japanese friends). "I'm not here for revenge, I'm only here for justice. It's up to you: do something about it! Tell the truth!"

The lawyer Martyn Day (centre) and former Allied PoWs, from left, Gil Hair of the United States, Arthur Titherington and Keith Martin of Britain, Henk Zeeman of New Zealand, and Harry Rynenberg of Australia, walking towards the district court in Tokyo yesterday AP

'There is no justice in this country'

THE LEADER of a group of former British prisoners of war wept publicly and spat on the steps of the Japanese parliament building yesterday after a Tokyo court rejected his claim of compensation for brutal treatment.

Arthur Titherington, of the Japan Labour Camp Survivors' Association, was one of seven former Allied prisoners and civilian internees whose case was dismissed yesterday in the Tokyo district court. "To tell such lies, to say that I didn't have the shit beaten out of me for three and a half years," e weeping Mr Titherington told a press conference, after spitting on the steps of the Japanese Diet. "There is no justice in this country. They are lying bastards."

The group's British lawyer, Martyn Day, said he would appeal against the decision by the three-judge panel that Japan's liability for compensation came to an end with the 1951-52 Treaty of San Francisco, and that individuals were not entitled to claim compensation from governments.

The accounts of the sufferings undergone by the seven plaintiffs during their captivity were not accepted by the court, which judged them to be irrelevant to the questions of law under consideration.

"We came to Japan four years ago with the hope that the Japanese courts would understand the moral aspects of the case," Mr Day said. "We received a judgment which is a kick in the face.

"Look at the brave, forward-thinking decision made in the House of Lords today concerning General Pinochet, and compare it to this backward, out-of-date verdict, which makes no acknowledgement of developments in the field of human rights."

Titherington: 'We have received a kick in the face'

Mr Day said that the plaintiffs, who include former prisoners from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, are now considering other means of obtaining redress, including bringing legal action against their own governments for failing to obtain adequate compensation on the their behalf.

"When I get home my government is going to get it in the neck," said Mr Titherington, who is due to meet the Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett next January.

Mr Fatchett said yesterday: "I saw Arthur Titherington on television and I realise how upset he and his colleagues are. We understand and sympathise. [But] we are constrained. It doesn't matter what we might wish to do."

Last January, after a meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister in Tokyo, Tony Blair urged the former PoWs to seek reconciliation rather than compensation.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Blair said: "We understand the disappointment of those who brought the case. We never forget their suffering and sacrifice. But... the Government's position remains, as it has been throughout, that the issue of compensation was settled under the treaty of 1951."

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Black police to entrap racist officers

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

BLACK POLICE officers are to be used as undercover "agents" to catch out racist detectives. Scotland Yard will also introduce random "integrity" testing, which will include placing marked piles of cash in police stations to discover whether officers are honest.

Officers accused of dishonesty or racism are expected to be filmed and recorded as part of a fresh drive against abuse of power, corruption and racism, to be launched next month.

The Metropolitan Police has already used the money trap and has caught at least one officer, who faces charges.

Rank-and-file officers are expected to react with fury at the move, which follows a succession of racist allegations made in the wake of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. The head of the Police Federation last night attacked what he termed random "fishing expeditions".

The most controversial aspect of the initiative is the use of random testing and covert operations against suspected racist officers and units.

A senior Scotland Yard source confirmed that black and Asian police officers would be used to test allegations of racism. The police may also use civilians from the ethnic minorities, possibly actors.

Anti-corruption detectives already use covert techniques that include approaching officers with proposals to break the law.

A senior Scotland Yard source said: "We will be testing officers throughout the Met to see whether they are honest. It will include abuse of powers, honesty, dishonesty, and racism. If officers are approached to act corruptly they are never sure whether it is CIB [anti-corruption unit] or genuine."

On the question of racism, he argued: "If we have doubts about any officer's or unit's behaviour then we would find ways of testing these fears."

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, which represents all officers below the rank of superintendent, said: "The setting of traps places every officer under suspicion and exposes them to temptation.

"Corruption and racism must be exposed and eradicated from the service but there'a a world of difference between setting traps where there's suspicion and embarking on a general fishing expedition."

Glen Smyth, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, opposed a random approach. "You would be getting into big brother territory, which is not a healthy atmosphere to work in," he said.

An unprecedented number of officers are being investigated for alleged corruption throughout the UK.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has advocated proactive anti-corruption and integrity-testing for officers.

Some forces already ask officers to reveal details of their bank accounts, and run confidential telephone lines for officers to report suspected wrongdoing by colleagues.

A member of the Nine O'Clock Service. The group's chapel recently hosted a pagan service *Joan Russell*

Disbanded congregation is reborn for pagan service

BY CLARE GARNER

THE CONGREGATION of the Nine O'Clock Service, the Sheffield church disbanded after its leader admitted abusing female members, has been resurrected for pagan festivals held in an Anglican chapel.

Former members of the discredited rave church celebrated the pagan festival of Samhain earlier this month in a service that made no mention of God or Jesus. Worshippers were offered mulled wine on the way in, sang along to a Sinead O'Connor song inside and compiled a wish list, which they then burnt on a bonfire.

Christian groups are urging the Sheffield diocese to investigate these activities.

A spokesman for the Evangelical Alliance, which represents one million Christians from 30 different denominations, said: "The use of a church building for a pagan service is an offensive demonstration of the growing popularity of pick-and-mix religion."

Philip Hacking, chairman of the national evangelical campaigning network, Reform, and a member of the Sheffield diocese, said:

"I think it's tragic that the Nine O'Clock Service, having destroyed itself, should start up again. The immorality last time stemmed from the congregation getting away from biblical teaching and standards."

The Rev Chris Brain, the inspiration behind the Nine O'Clock Service, resigned as a Church of England priest three years ago after accusations that he had abused his position. No formal inquiry was carried out by the Church of England, but some members of the congregation were assigned their own chaplain to help them to resolve their pain. Afterwards a band of about 40 devotees wanted to keep alive the experimental spirit behind Mr Brain's multi-media "planetary masses".

The Rev Philip Allin, the Anglican priest who was appointed as their counsellor, renamed the church the Nine O'Clock Community. He said yesterday that he had not been present at the service at Hill Top Chapel, in Sheffield, on 1 November because he had been in bed with flu. But he said he was unconcerned about the absence of any Christian content in the service.

"We are trying to stay loyal to the idea of alternative worship that the Nine O'Clock Service itself was obviously so famous for," said Mr Allin.

"It doesn't concern me because I know the community and I know its search for God is through a creation-centred spirituality. I know some members have a strong commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and other members don't have such a strong commitment."

The Samhain service was attended by 20 adults and 10 children, and run by lay members of the church.

Scandal-hit council's leader is arrested

BY PAUL LASHMAR

IN A NEW twist to the "Donnygate" corruption scandal, the Labour leader of beleaguered Doncaster Council resigned yesterday after being arrested by police. Malcolm Glover had been elected leader in March last year, supported by senior Labour Party leaders anxious to clean up a council shaken by allegations of corruption.

Mr Glover, a Doncaster councillor for 15 years, had pledged to restore the council's reputation among its citizens. On Wednesday, Mr Glover was arrested at his home and interviewed by detectives investigating the allegations.

Announcing Mr Glover's resignation as leader and from the Labour Group, the Labour Party said that Mr Glover was strongly contesting the allegations against him, "which are not current but go back some years".

However, Mr Glover's arrest is an embarrassment for the Labour Party as he had been given the personal seal of approval by Tony Blair who told Doncaster residents Mr Glover's leadership presented a brighter future.

The Conservative local government spokesman, Richard Ottaway MP said: "What on earth has happened to Doncaster's brighter future? This man was brought in to clean up Doncaster's politics – what's gone wrong?"

Michael Glover: resigned after being arrested

Andrew Sharp, the Party's director for the region said: "As Leader, Malcolm Glover has played an important role in bringing a wide range of changes during a difficult period for Doncaster Council. He has informed me that he is standing down as Leader and from the Labour Group while he contests any allegations."

Mr Glover's lawyer, Mr Daniel Stowell, said Mr Glover had been arrested and taken to Wombwell Police Station near Barnsley. "He assisted the police with their inquiries and was released on bail without charges, pending further inquiries."

The South Yorkshire Police said in a statement, "A Doncaster man has been arrested and released on bail in connection with ongoing inquiry into Doncaster Council."

Mr Glover, 47, a former British Rail store keeper, became a councillor in 1982 and is a member of the Balby ward where he lives with his wife and two children. Councillor Glover had served on most of the Council's major committees.

According to the Yorkshire Post, Mr Glover was closely associated with Doncaster council's secretive mining group caucus which formed "a party within a party". "During the 1980s and early 1990s, he appeared to have successfully distanced himself from those tainted by the unfolding scandal," the paper said.

Before last May's local council elections, Mr Glover apologised to voters for the Donnygate affair.

The scandal erupted after allegations surfaced of councillors enjoying free drinks at the racecourse, overseas trips on club-class flights, over use of council credit cards and official cars used to ferry councillors round the City's pubs.

So far, 20 people have been arrested including Mr Glover, and four serving or former members of Doncaster Council have been prosecuted since police launched "Operation Danum" in April 1997.

IN BRIEF

Five life sentences for rapist

A KNIFE-wielding burglar was given five life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday for the rapes of a mother and her nine-year-old daughter on Boxing Day two years ago and a further rape of a schoolgirl 10 months later. DNA evidence linked William Kenealy, 25, from Northolt, north-west London to both crimes. Police are to question him about two other rapes.

British chefs drop French name

THE UK'S leading chefs' organisation has dropped its French name in favour of an English one after declaring that British cooking has come of age. The Académie Culinaire de France, founded in 1980 by Albert Roux and Michel Bourdin, boasts the nation's top chefs among its 240 members. It is now the Academy of Culinary Arts.

Man acquitted of balcony fall death

A MAN accused of the manslaughter of a friend who fell from a balcony on an Ibiza holiday was cleared by a judge yesterday. Mr Justice Sedley acquitted 24-year-old Jason Barrow, of Barnstaple, north Devon, after the prosecution offered no evidence against him at Exeter Crown Court. Jamie Morgan, 22, died in San Antonio in June last year.

Gary Glitter committed for trial

POP STAR Gary Glitter was yesterday committed at a North Avon magistrates' court to stand trial on child-sex and pornography charges. Glitter, 54, was charged as Paul Gadd of making indecent photographs of children, indecent assault on a young girl, and serious sexual offences. A hearing will be held at Bristol Crown Court on 18 January.

Urgent work at child jail

BRITAIN'S FIRST jail for children, Medway Secure Training Centre, has been told to reduce the number of inmates until urgent refurbishment is carried out. The centre is run by Group 4 subsidiary Rebound ECD.

Pilot wins £800,000 over failed operation

BY KIM SENGUPTA

A BRITISH Airways pilot whose "life was destroyed" after an operation to reverse a circumcision, was awarded £800,000 damages in settlement of his High Court action against an eminent surgeon yesterday.

Father of three James Williams, 42, had sued consultant surgeon John Pryor for £3m for alleged negligence during the operation in 1994 at the Lister Hospital, Chelsea, London, which left him "grossly genetically mutilated". He lost his job as a pilot and his flying licence and his marriage ended soon afterwards.

Yesterday, on the fourth day of the hearing, Mr Williams' counsel, Nicholas Leviseur, told Judge Kenny that the parties had reached terms. The judge said: "I think the parties are extremely well advised and I commend the settlement."

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Children at risk as health inequality between rich and poor increases

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

MOTHERS AND children should be the focus of a new strategy aimed at reversing the growing health gap between rich and poor, a Government inquiry said yesterday.

Concentrating help on parents, especially mothers, is the only way of breaking the cycle of deprivatinn in which ill-health and disadvantage is passed down from generation to generation, the report of the Independent Inquiry Into Health Inequalities says.

Recommending a socialist-style programme for redistributing resources from the rich to the less well off, the inquiry, chaired by Sir Donald Acheson, the former Government Chief Medical Officer, says that social security benefits for women and children should be raised and policies for improving schools, extending day care and providing cheaper and better food should be targetted on disadvantaged areas.

The report says "food poverty" – in which people are forced to go without food because of a lack of money – has reappeared in Britain and its effects could endanger future generations. Current benefit rates are "inadequate to meet the costs of an adequate diet for expectant mothers" and benefit rates for children cover only 67 to 90 per cent of their minimum needs.

The report sets out "39 steps to a healthier society", ranging from far-reaching improvements in housing and employment to specific measures such as providing free fruit in schools and nicotine patches on prescription.

But it was immediately criticised for producing a set of vague, uncosted recommendations which ministers may use as a shopping list, selecting for implementation those that are cheap and simple and suit their political goals.

The inquiry was conducted by a committee of six over 16 months who were charged with updating the 1980 Black report into health inequalities. That inquiry, chaired by the eminent physician Sir Douglas Black, found wide differences in death rates between the rich and poor and recommended measures costing £2bn to address them. The report was dismissed by the then Conservative social services secretary, Patrick Jenkin. Sir Donald was determined that his inquiry, which found the health gap has widened since the Black report, would avoid the same fate and provided no costings for his recommendations.

The report said Britain is now the most unequal country in the world after the US in terms of the gap between rich and poor which is wider than at any time since the Second World War. While the rich have got richer over the past 20 years the numbers on Income Support have more than doubled from 4 million in 1979 to 9.6 million in 1996. A quarter of all children under 11 live in families on Income Support.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health said the Government was committed to reducing health inequalities. "They have persisted throughout the century and often worsened in the past two decades and they will not be swept away overnight. Sir Donald's work will be a key influence in our long term strategy to narrow the health gap," he said.

■ Whether people grow up to be geniuses or dunces may be partly decided by what they are fed in the first weeks of life, a 16-year study of premature babies by Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, reported.

THE MAIN POINTS

1 Government: Assess policies affecting health to see whether they would widen nr narrow the health gap.
2 Poverty: Increase benefits for women, children and older people. Raise pensions.
3 Education: Provide extra resources for schools and more pre-school education in disadvantaged areas.
4 Employment: Improve job opportunities and training. Reduce psycho-social hazards nf work by giving employees more control.
5 Housing: Provide more social housing, measures to help the homeless, better insulation and smnke detectors.
6 Transport: Improve public transport, reduce car use, lnwer speed llmits and provide concessionary fares.
7 Nutritinn: Provide cheaper, more varied food in disadvantaged areas, and free frult In schools. Improve nutritinn nf women nf child-bearing age. Lower salt in processed food.
8 Familles: Provide more day care for working parents. Fluoridate the water supply.
9 Young people: Take measures against suicide and teenage pregnancies and encourage exercise in the young.
10 Smoking: Increase real price nf tobacco and make nicotine replacements available nn prescriptinn.
11 Ethnic minorities: Better hnusing and job opportunities.
12 NHS: Allocate more resources tn disadvantaged areas.

Possil Park, Glasgow. Greater Possil was named the most deprived area in Scotland *Stephen Mansfield*

Police target racism from the terraces

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS who use racist chants and abuse against black players are being targeted by undercover police officers.

The Metropolitan Police has carried out the first two successful operations against racist "supporters" in which dozens of officers were used secretly to record and photograph offensive chanting.

The initiative comes as the Home Office will announce today proposals to give stiffer penalties against racists and hooligans at football matches.

A stricter vetting programme to try to stop hooligans following the England team abroad was unveiled by the Football Association yesterday.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service has warned about a disturbing trend of football related violence in and around grounds this year.

The NCIS said officers were becoming increasingly worried at the number of hooligan incidents this season. A dossier of 22 outbreaks of violence includes details of a battle between 200 fans from Manchester United and Coventry on a train in September.

Incidents so far this season have included a CS spray attack in a pub on Norwich fans by Birmingham supporters and a disturbance on a London to Sheffield train last weekend.

Bryan Drew, hesd of the NCIS strategic and specialist intelligence branch, said: "Although it is too early to say whether the overall downward trend for football related arrest figures over the past five years is being reversed, the signs are not encouraging."

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, yesterday showed film of two undercover operations against racist chanting, both involving followers of Millwall football team in south London.

In the most recent operation, in September, five men aged 19 to 42 where recorded making monkey noises and chanting racist obscenities by an undercover police officer. The "fans" were also filmed.

Under the Home Office proposed clampdown on hooligans, measures expected to be announced today include making the chanting of racist abuse by an individual fan a criminal offence, stiffer fines, tougher exclusion orders to bar known troublemakers from matches in this country and new curbs to stop the sale by touts of tickets to matches overseas.

Straw facing a queue for extradition

BY KIM SENGUPTA

COUNTRIES IN Europe are lining up to extradite Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator, on charges of alleged murder and torture. As well as the request from Spain, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has warrants from France, Switzerland and Belgium on his desk. Warrants appear to be imminent from Germany and Sweden.

The mounting calls that General Pinochet should face justice would, it is believed, make it more difficult for Mr Straw to use his discretionary powers and send him back to Chile. The warrants relate to citizens of the countries who were victims of Chile's military junta. Because of the law lords' judgment that General Pinochet was not immune from prosecution as a former head of state, each warrant should now theoretically be tested on its merits.

Political and diplomatic manoeuvring continued yesterday, with President Eduardo Frei of Chile sending his Foreign Minister to Britain and Spain. Jose Miguel Insulza meets the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, in London today to press for General Pinochet's release before flying on to present his case in Madrid. Yesterday Mr Straw asked for a week's extension of the deadline by which he has to decide whether to allow the Spanish extradition request to proceed.

Last night human-rights groups said he can expect a legal challenge if he decides to send General Pinochet home. A spokesman for Amnesty International said such action could be the subject of a judicial review. Home Office staff say privately that it would be "extraordinarily difficult" for Mr Straw to ignore the law lords' judgment.

The Government would have little to gain politically by agreeing to release General Pinochet at this stage. However, Home Office officials are apprehensive about the health of the general, who is under police guard at the private Grovelands Priory Hospital in north London, and the possibility of it deteriorating during the months of legal actions extradition proceedings will entail.

A source said: "It would be a bit of a disaster if he dies in custody over here. If his condition does get a lot worse it would also give a valid reason for the Home Secretary to use his discretion and release him." Earlier this year the IRA bomb suspect Roisin McAliskey was freed by Mr Straw, using his discretionary powers because of her health.

The Foreign Office has reiterated a warning to Britons not to travel to Chile, where 118 pro and anti-Pinochet protesters were arrested and 10 policemen injured in clashes yesterday. It was rumoured that both sides were stockpiling arms, in an uneasy echo of the events leading up to the coop by General Pinochet against the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende.

President Frei said in a public broadcast that his government would continue to protest at what it sees as interference by outside powers. "We will not accept pressure from groups whose actions and declarations have only made a difficult situation worse."

Yesterday Michael Howard, shadow foreign secretary, and the former defence secretary Michael Portillo became the latest leading Conservatives to urge Mr Straw to use his discretion and free the general. Mr Howard said he should use his powers to "short-circuit" the extradition process.

Mr Portillo said the arrest of General Pinochet was " indefensible", and drew a comparison with the Government's dealing with the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams. He said: "The Chileans have reached a very delicate settlement ... it's the sort of settlement we've reached with Gerry Adams. I don't like what we've done with Gerry Adams ... but it's our business what we do with Gerry Adams and it's their business what they are doing with General Pinochet."

Ariel Dorfman, Review, page 4

Supporters of General Pinochet burning the Union flag in Santiago, the Chilean capital, in protest at the law lords' decision EPA

THE EX-DICTATORS: WHERE CAN THEY HIDE NOW?

General Idi Amin Dada
Former dictator fled Uganda with one of his wives and several children after being deposed in 1979, leaving a bankrupt country. He found refuge in Saudi Arabia. General Amin is not allowed to travel, and is said to have been ill from a sexually transmitted disease.

President Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.
Took over as father of his people in Haiti from Papa Doc Duvalier. Moved to south of France after being ousted, but lost his luxury home in Côte d'Azur to creditors and wife to a neighbour. Lives in downmarket flat. Said to travel within France, but not outside.

Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa
Changed the name of his country, Central African Republic, to Central African Empire, and crowned himself emperor. Lived in exile at a Normandy chateau. Arrested on return to his homeland. Tried and sentence to life imprisonment. Has become a born-again Christian.

General Alfredo Stroessner
A fellow Latin American dictator of Pinochet's in Paraguay, ruling his country for 35 years. A brutal suppressor of unions and left-wing opposition he enjoyed the support of the CIA. Lost power in 1989 and now lives in Brazil where he rarely leaves his apartment.

President Jorge Serrano
Carried out coup against own government to gain power in Guatemala. Now in exile in Panama where he has a multi-million-pound property development company. Business associates include Manuel Noriega. Mr Serrano is reported to have travelled incognito outside Panama.

General Leopoldo Galtieri
Failed to win the Falklands from Britain, and fell from power in Argentina soon afterwards. Spent time under semi house arrest and now lives in a run-down apartment block in Buenos Aires with his wife, Lucia, working as a caretaker. Does not travel outside Argentina.

President Suharto
President of Indonesia for 30 years, taking power from Sukarno with a massacre of left-wingers. Invaded East Timor where Indonesian troops carried out atrocities. Overthrown in May. Family allegedly salted away £15bn abroad but former president still living in Indonesia.

General Raoul Cedras
Came to power in Haiti after Baby Doc, and fled to Panama in 1994 after a coup. Apparently tried to get involved in former president Serrano's property business, but was snubbed. Not considered to be in the premier league of former dictators Not known to travel.

Chile reliant on British trade

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND DANIEL MARTIN

IN FINANCIAL terms, Chile has far more to lose than Britain from any disruption to trade between the countries, according to latest export figures.

After the five law lords' decision, there was immediate speculation the 150-year-old trading relationship between the countries could be damaged. There was particular concern that defence contracts involving British warships could be jeopardised: General Pinochet had come to Britain with Chile's Minister of Procurement for the Armed Forces.

Figures released by the London-based British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than 100 British companies trading with Chile, reveal that Chile earns almost twice as much than Britain from the trade between the two countries. In 1997 Britain spent £393m on Chilean products compared to £210m spent by Chile on British goods – a trade balance of £183m in Chile's favour. "Britain is Chile's third most important market after the US and Japan, while Chile is number 61 on our list of markets," said Sandra Carey, the chamber's general manager. "And Britain is one of the biggest investors in Chile."

The only experience of Chilean produce for many Britons is the off-dry red wine. In turn Britain's main exports are specialised machine parts, propane gas and Scotch whisky. "Britain is well-viewed, as are our products," claims the most recent Department of Trade and Industry report. But British experts said yesterday there was a real fear commerce will be damaged.

"Up to 85 per cent of Chile's private sector is pro-Pinochet and in the short-term, British companies might start finding things difficult," said Michael Valdes Scott, chief executive of the Latin American Trade Advisory Council.

There could also be problems for British consortia bidding for concessions when Chile's ports and its 13 state-owned water companies are privatised next year. Telecommunications and service industries are other areas attractive to foreign investors.

British Aerospace is believed to be the only company with defence contracts with Chile – a £20m deal for a multiple-launch rocket system and a £12m contract for light arms. However the company, which invited Pinochet to visit, is also interested in supplying Chile's airforce with the Grippen lightweight fighter. The deal could be worth around £200m.

The company's concerns will have been heightened by the situation over Britain's proposed sale of three former Navy frigates to Chile. Following Pinochet's arrest last month, two Chilean admirals cancelled their procurement visit to Britain and the multi-million pound deal is now uncertain. "We don't know what the situation is," said a Ministry of Defence spokesman yesterday.

St Michael

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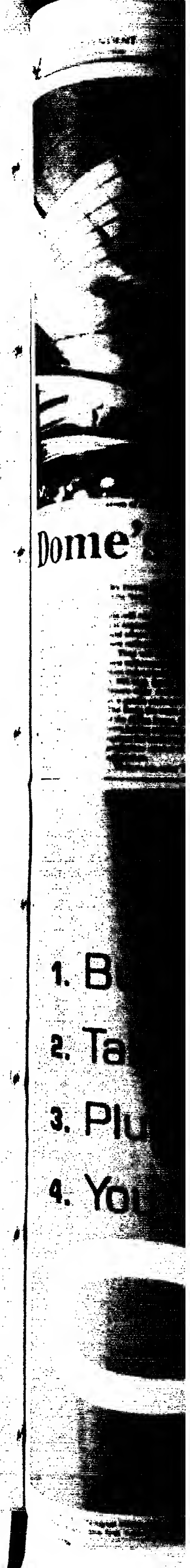
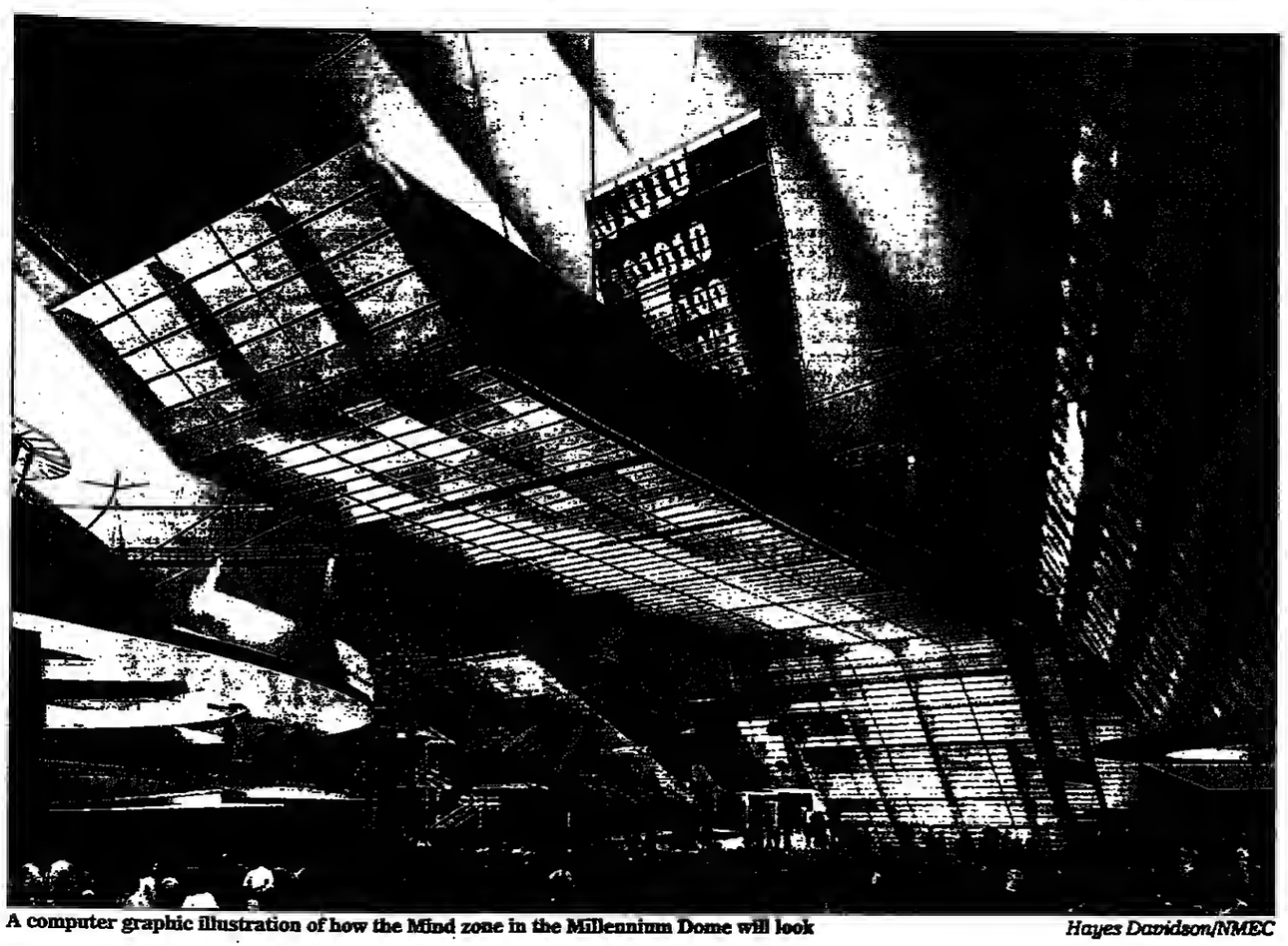
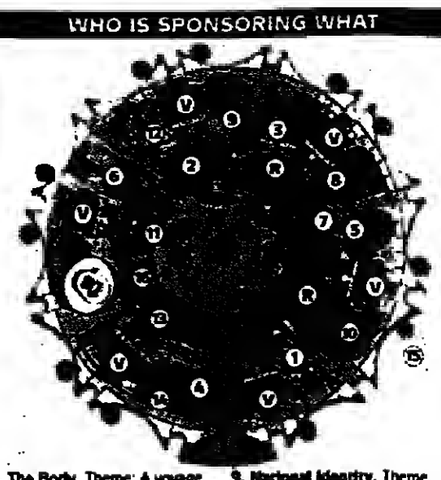
MARKS & SPENCER





A computer graphic illustration of how the Mind zone in the Millennium Dome will look *Hayes Davidson/NMEC*

WHO IS SPONSORING WHAT



1. **The Body.** Theme: A voyage of discovery through the human body. Sponsor: Boots The Chemist (£12m)
2. **Communicate.** Theme: Learn better ways of talking to each other. Sponsor: BT (£12m)
3. **Global.** Theme: Understand what it means to be a global citizen. Sponsor: BA and BAA (£6m each)
4. **Learn.** Theme: Lifelong Learning. Sponsor: Tesco (£12m)
5. **Local.** Theme: See how you can shape your community. Sponsor: None yet
6. **Mind.** Theme: Discover your inherent creative power. Sponsor: GEC and British Aerospace (£6m each)
7. **Mobility.** Theme: Smarter travel solutions. Sponsor: None yet
8. **Living Island.** Theme. Protect your environment. Sponsor: None yet
9. **National Identity.** Theme. Decide what being British means. Sponsor: Marks & Spencer (£12m)
10. **Play.** Theme: The Digital Playground. Sponsor: None yet
11. **Rest.** Theme: Relaxation Sponsor: None yet
12. **Spirit.** Theme: The role of belief and different faiths. Sponsor: None yet
13. **Transaction.** Theme: Money and finance. Sponsor. Corporation of London (£6m)
14. **Work.** Theme: Learning new skills. Sponsor. Manpower (£12m)
15. **Baby Dome.** Theme Two 2,500 seat cinemas. Sponsor. BSkyB(£12m)
16. **Our Town Story.** Theme 500-seat performance area. Sponsor: McDonalds (£12m)

V. Visitor Services *(Cafes, toilets & information)*
R. Retail

Dome's 'brave new world' unveiled

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE BRAVE new world that is the Millennium Dome will have Boots the Chemist in charge of the body, defence and arms companies in charge of the mind and McDonald's hamburgers overseeing the local high street.

And with just 400 days to go there is still no guarantee that the train service to get you there will be running.

It all sounds curiously like pre-millennial Britain.

But as the Millennium Dome organisers yesterday, at last, unveiled the contents, design and commercial sponsors for the Dome, they euphorically promised that "12 million people will see the world's greatest exploration of who we are and where we are going in the new millennium".

They will also see that the new millennium human frame does indeed have private parts. A 90ft-high figure of a Henry Moore-style reclining couple in a gentle embrace will form The Body, the main attraction of the £758m Dome, the organisers having evidently decided against the earlier confusingly genderless symbol of the new millennium.

Visitors can enter The Body and take an escalator ride up the male's right arm and into the central area. Inside they will hear and see the sights and sounds of the human body.

Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson frown upon the use of the phrase "theme park"; and it was carefully avoided yesterday. But the descriptions from the New Millennium Experience Company, which is overseeing the project, used a language that was a mixture of Science Museum, Disney and the big top.

"In the centre of the Dome itself," they said, "the awe-inspiring live Millennium show will run up to six times a day featuring acrobatics, trapeze artists, stilt-walking and abseiling. Great music, stunning visual effects and a cast drawn from 160 performers will stun visitors ... Visitors will spend most of their time exploring the 14 themed exhibition zones."

And if all that leaves you hungry, there will certainly be McDonald's outlets on the Dome site. The fast-food company was one of the sponsors announced yesterday with a glee that attempted without success to disguise the fact that six zones still have no sponsor, although negotiations are continuing on the Spirit zone with the Hinduja brothers, who are millionaire philanthropists.

The involvement of major defence companies was challenged by one MP. Liberal Democrat Norman Baker said: "GEC aren't supposed to be there out of the goodness of their own hearts. They are there because they want to promote GEC. It is becoming something of a trade fair."

Jennifer Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, responded: "All the sponsors of the Dome will be companies which are household names ... I think there are many technologies, many commercial activities, we should be proud of as a nation. We are not going to be dealing in any sense with issues concerning defence policy or defence issues."

Lord Simpson, chief executive of GEC, added: "We aim to bring to life the way innovative electronic engineering extends the reach of the mind."

The Mind zone has been designed by the architect-designer Zaha Hadid and visitors to this section can have a brain scan that will show them which areas of the brain they are using. They will also be able to interact with robots.

Ms Page also promised that there would be "quite a lot of music" both inside and outside the Dome. And Michael Grade, chairman of the Millennium Experience Creative Review Group, added: "We would ignore [pop music] at our peril."

Tickets for the Dome are expected to cost about £20.

Ms Page said that her company had £120m of the £150m sponsorship needed, and added she was in "no doubt that full sponsorship will be achieved".

She was also confident that the behind-schedule London Underground Jubilee Line extension, which is intended to carry more than two in five of visitors to and from the Dome, would be ready for the 31 December 1999 opening.

Pact to settle Jubilee strike

BY PHILIP THORNTON AND BARRIE CLEMENT

A PEACE formula was agreed to yesterday to end the strike on the Jubilee Line extension as management appealed to MPs to "have faith" in their ability to get it finished for the opening of the Millennium Dome.

London Transport admitted the cost had soared to £3bn, £900m over budget and finally gave the planned opening date – October 1999. Chances of completing on time improved with the formula agreed to yesterday. It was accepted by managers, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union and strikers' representatives and will be put to a meeting today. Electricians, about half the workforce, are expected to vote for the offer and return to work on Monday. It was accepted by Drake and Scull, the main electrical contractor, and appears similar to a formula it rejected on Tuesday.

Management seems to have climbed down over the transfer of 12 electricians from London Bridge to Green Park, the issue that sparked the walk-out. The strikers said they were being switched because they had pointed out the inadequacies of a fire alarm system at London Bridge. However, the deal says management can choose who to transfer from now on after "appropriate notice".

Yesterday Denis Tunnicliffe, LT chief executive, was challenged by members of the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport to say why they should believe his promises when he had told them a year ago the line would open in September 1998. "I can only invite you to have more faith. Perhaps I have learnt over the last year," he said.

Mr Tunnicliffe gave an abject apology to the committee over delays to the project: "We apologise and we are very disappointed with what has happened."

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Widdecombe's homage to Viagra makes members go limp

THE SKETCH

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

YOU MIGHT not have thought of Ann Widdecombe as a vigilante of political correctness, hnt any stick will do when it comes to beating the Government and Frank Dobson had dropped a very tempting one during a noisy intervention in his opening remarks on the Queen's Speech. The right honourable lady must be suffering from a premature attack of Alzheimer's, he suggested rashly, in the course of correcting some scandalous statistic that had just been thrown at him. Ms Widdecombe didn't say anything at the time, but she knew she had him. Yesterday Mr Mandelson had spotted a similar pitfall in advance. In the printed text of his speech he was due to lambast his shadow, John Redwood, as "not just wrong but blind". On the hoof he changed this to "not just wrong but quite stupid", presumably aware that he would shortly be joined on the front bench by David Blunkett, and that his first choice of words might prove uncomfortable. Mr Dobson wasn't as agile in dodging the hazard and he paid for it. "There are many people who will be *grossly* offended," said Ms Widdecombe, ticking him off for his flippancy about this awful illness.

You might not have thought of Ann Widdecombe as a particular fan of impotence treatment either. She generally gives the impression that the world would be immeasurably improved if turgidity below the belt line was just a fond memory for all of us. But Ms Widdecombe has her coquettish side and she isn't above using sex to get where she wants. Yesterday she titillated MPs with an unexpected confession: "Now, I'm extremely grateful to Viagra," she announced, before pausing for the Frankie Howerd "oohh" she knew would follow, "It solved a very big problem." Members on both sides of the House went momentarily limp at the thought of an impotent man faced with an expectant Ann Widdecombe but naturally she had other matters in mind. Viagra had forced the Government to admit that the NHS does, and must, ration some services. It had stiffened Ms Widdecombe's opposition, and that was good enough for her.

The opening section of the debate itself was a rather messy affair. Frank Dobson is no magician at the despatch box and Ms Widdecombe's interventions were opportunistic rather than consistent. The same could be said of her speech in reply, a kind of pick-and-mix of available grouses. She started with the great trolley scandal, demanding to know what had happened to the Government's promised "weekly performance checks on people waiting on trolleys". I think we can assume that it is languishing in some Whitehall corridor, plaintively asking passing civil servants when it will be seen by the minister, but Ms Widdecombe wasn't really interested in an answer. She was interested in the fact that Mr Dobson didn't have one.

Then she spent a considerable amount of time trying to get the minister to agree that government proposals on making insurers pay for the costs of treating traffic accident victims was a "tax". "I make no value judgement on whether this should he so or no," she said twice, as good as confessing that she had no substantive point to make. All she wanted to do was pin the Government in a semantic half-nelson, caught between an old statement and a new policy. Only the energy of her delivery could bring this off, hut then there's energy to spare. Ms Widdecombe has an unusually penetrating voice. I write this sketch sitting at a desk in the corridor just outside the Press Gallery. Usually proceedings burble away behind my back, but as I tap away Ms Widdecombe has become exercised once again and her every word is as clear as a bell. When properly focused this is a voice that could be used to shatter kidney stones. Mr Dobson should be grateful that yesterday the calibration was *out*.

Tories accuse Dobson of fear tactics

HEALTH SERVICE

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, was bitterly accused of extending "control freakery" to the National Health Service by the Tories yesterday, who claimed he was creating a "climate of fear" to meet his pledge to reduce hospital waiting lists.

Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative health spokeswoman, attacked Mr Dobson for "fiddling the figures" while patients were being "diddled", resulting in an "army of trolleys" in hospital corridors.

But Mr Dobson, opening a debate on the Queen's Speech, said Ms Widdecombe was deliberately carrying out a "smear" campaign against NHS staff responsible for compiling the lists.

"Every single one of their [the Tories'] claims have been proved to be untrue. They make their allegations, they don't check on the facts, so they smear the hard-working staff who they say are fiddling the figures," he said.

Mr Dobson went on to stress that the planned creation of "primary care groups", as outlined in the speech, which would number about 50 GPs serving 100,000 people, would make the NHS more patient-centred and less dominated by institutions.

In an attempt to break down the "Berlin wall" between health and community care, trusts will receive a single budget, enabling them to decide whether to hire more community nurses to care for more people in their homes or spend more on prescribing to control medical conditions rather than sending patients to hospitals.

In angry clashes, Ms Widdecombe said GPs were being dragooned into the primary care groups in a "bulk rather than gradually" which would result in the system "going wrong all at once. Many family doctors are unwilling to co-operate with Government plans to conscript them into these groups because they know that patient care will be adversely affected as GPs are turned into glorified accountants ... and will mean the end of family doctors as we know them in many areas of the country," she said.

Arguing for a new system of waiting lists that would identify particular groups of diseases, Ms Widdecombe branded the Queen Speech proposals on health a "blueprint for centralised, bureaucratic control". "This Government's priority is not patient care but control freakery. These proposals will... create an NHS where ministers have all the power and none of the responsibilities," she said.

Later in the debate, Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, condemned the Government for edging back to policies that had failed the country in the past.

In a wide-ranging attack on Labour's legislative agenda, Mr Heseltine claimed the Blair administration was "very much the successor of the Attlee government of 1945", because it had "big ideas" which would take "50 years to get rid off".

Mr Heseltine, a prominent Europhile, said the "most chilling aspect" was the Government's tacit encouragement of a federalist agenda for Europe through devolution. He said those aiming for the federalist agenda wanted to "bypass the nation state because they realise that if they can regionalise Europe, then they can exercise a much more pervasive influence from Brussels...

"[The Commons] will become increasingly less important as the power is shifted with the money towards a regional ... Europe...that concept of Europe is fed, wittingly or unwittingly, by what this Government is doing in breaking up the coherence of the UK," he said.

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu (right), and the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, at the end of a meeting on the Middle East in London yesterday *AP*

Patten rules himself out of Mayoral race

MAYOR OF LONDON

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

CHRIS PATTEN, the former Tory party chairman, effectively ruled himself out as a candidate to become the first elected Mayor of London yesterday, but put himself at the head of the pro-European wing of the Conservative Party. Calling for the Tory party to reclaim the centre ground from Tony Blair, the former Hong Kong governor compared the Conservative's Eurosceptic wing to the Bennites of the Labour Party in the early Eighties.

"When I hear Conservatives saying that our real problem is that we are not right-wing enough, I hear worrying echoes of Labour in the early 1980s. It's a reminder that Bennery is not a totally left-wing nostrum.

"I think what the centre left and centre right need to remember is that the middle ground, on to which Labour has successfully trespassed, is inhabited by real ideas and hy real aspirations."

Mr Patten, regarded as the intellectual champion of the pro-Europeans in the Conservative Party, said the Tories should win back the centre ground by commitments to fiscal prudence, low taxation, welfare reform, educational improvement not just education spending, and the devolution of real political power.

He said: "That's the ground on which the Conservatives should launch their fightback and I'm sure that under William Hague they will do so."

He denied he was ont to challenge Mr Hague, but made clear he disagreed with the Tory leader's policy of ruling out Britain's entry to the single currency for at least another Parliament. But Mr Patten, a member of the board of *The Independent*, also made clear he was not interested in running for the election to become the mayor of London because it lacked real powers.

"This is not a bid to come between Ken Livingstone and Lord Archer. Elected mayors should have real power and not become ceremonial whingers," Mr Patten said.

Mr Patten also said he was "pretty doubtful" that the Government would give the postholder sufficient powers to do the job properly.

"I think there's a real danger of a mayor being elected and then not being in a position to make the trains run on time," he said. Of his own role in the party and a possible return to Westminster, Mr Patten said he was making no decisions until his work on the independent commission looking at policing *in Northern Ireland was over.*

"There's a very bad track record of grandees trying to parachute into safe constituencies," he said

Pointing to the level of commitment required, he added: "I haven't reached any decision about whether I want to go through all that and do it in a wholehearted way. The next Conservative Prime Minister will be William Hague."

Fox hounds ban slips away

HUNTING

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

MINISTERS WILL not attempt to force through parliament a ban on fox hunting because the Government is convinced that peers would block it, Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, said yesterday.

There has been speculation at Westminster that a backbench MP could use the new session of Parliament to launch a fresh attempt to ban hunting with hounds, using a Private Member's Bill.

But Mrs Beckett said no one should believe the Government could get such a measure through the Lords after it was defeated five times over the introduction of closed-list voting system under the European Elections Bill.

"I think there should now be clarity about the real position because a lot of people who supported the abolition of fox hunting find it difficult to accept that the Government, with a substantial Commons majority could not, in some magic way, impose its will," she said.

Mrs Beckett made clear that the Lords had just demonstrated, "without a shadow of a doubt", that they could obstruct government legislation when they were prepared to do so.

She signalled that any such Bill would be unlikely to get ministerial backing because the Government had already met its manifesto commitment on fox hunting with a free vote on the issue in the Commons last year.

The attempt by Michael Foster, the Labour MP for Worcester, to outlaw hunting with hounds failed last session after bitter debates and delaying tactics by the ban's opponents.

The ballot to decide which backbench MPs get valuable Commons time to introduce their own legislation will be held in the next few weeks, and it will then be up to the backbench MPs who win to decide what their Bills should be.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lords backed

FORMER LABOUR Foreign Secretary Lord Owen said the law lords' ruling on former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet had led many people "to understand the significance of the Lords as a judicial chamber for the first time".

Radio friendly

THE GOVERNMENT moved closer to relax restrictions on ownership of digital multiple radio licences with the publication of a consultation paper. "My proposals are also designed to protect plurality of ownership and diversity of content," Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said.

Iraq warning

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT Minister Lord Gilbert reiterated warnings that Britain and its allies may be "forced to take military action" against Iraq.

Coalition fear

THE DISTINCTION between the executive and the legislature has been blurred because the Government seems to have set up a "private coalition" with the Liberal Democrats, Tony Benn, the Labour MP for Chesterfield, complained.

Bug theory

THE MILLENNIUM Bug is more likely to neutralise other countries' weapons systems than to set them off in a nuclear holocaust, said the Defence Procurement minister, Lord Gilbert.

THE HOUSE

Today's Business
The Commons: the Queen's Speech debate on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and a short debate on engineering advice for the alleviation of poverty in the Third World.
The Lords: Not sitting.

Rail firms to recruit 800 more drivers

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT announced a package of measures yesterday that would put more drivers and trains on the railways and give more power to the passenger. It said it was taking responsibility for delivering a good railway service within a year.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, unveiled a 10-point plan agreed with the 25 privatised train companies and Railtrack to solve the problems of unreliability and delays on the trains.

He said he had given them a final warning that those companies continuing to fail the passenger would have no future in the industry.

Government sources confirmed that this meant the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising would be told to terminate the contract with failing companies and hand over the trains to the dormant British Railways Board, as reported by *The Independent* yesterday.

The measures include:

■ Eight hundred new drivers to be recruited and trained to cut the number of trains cancelled because of the shortage of drivers, who were made redundant in the early days of privatisation.

■ Five hundred new vehicles to be introduced over the next year, of which half would replace ageing rolling stock.

■ A joint "hit squad" to be set up by Railtrack and the train companies to tackle the 50 worst blackspots.

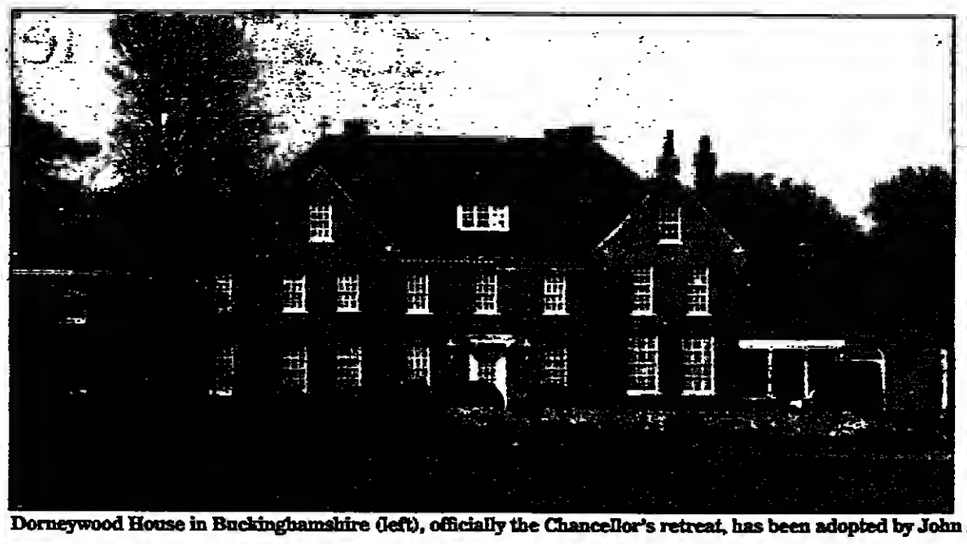
Other measures included a "trouble-shooter" team to address punctuality problems, pledges for better-quality rolling stock, better maintenance of the track and signalling and a commitment to ensure a quicker response when problems arose.

The Government also announced plans to hold a public meeting, which it called a "National Railway Summit" in February for the rail industry to reveal more detailed plans.

Mr Prescott also revealed that passengers would have a say in whether companies remained in the industry as the official passenger satisfaction surveys would be included as one of the methods of measuring train performance.

However, doubts began to emerge over whether the package of measures were new initiatives or merely restating existing commitments.

It was still unclear whether the 800 new drivers would in fact replace those who have already taken early retirement. Government sources also confirmed that the 500 new vehicles were ones that had already been ordered.



Dorneywood House in Buckinghamshire (left), officially the Chancellor's retreat, has been adopted by John and Pauline Prescott (right, at a race meeting in Brighton)

Prescotts lord it at sumptuous Dorneywood

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE BLAIRS adore Chequers and the Cooks simply love evenings at Chevening, but wild horses couldn't drag the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to his official country pile.

Yet Dorneywood in Buckinghamshire costs £250,000 a year to run, and to one minister it seemed daft that a fine residence was being wasted.

It emerged this week that the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, has stepped into the breach and agreed to use the 45-bedroom mansion as his own occasional retreat.

In a written parliamentary answer, Mr Prescott revealed that he and his wife, Pauline, had stayed at the mansion at least six times so far this year.

He may still describe himself as working-class, but Mr Prescott has never denied his penchant for the finer things in life, owning two Jaguar cars and an eight-bedroom home in his Hull constituency known locally as Prescott's Castle. When in London, he lives in a magnificent apartment in Admiralty Arch.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat MP who asked Mr Prescott about his use of the residence, said yesterday that "he and his wife seem to have emerged as the Duke and Duchess of Dorneywood But as this week's Queen's Speech has shown, when it comes to Bills on the environment, he seems to have less influence than the Downing Street cat."

Nutrition in youth is critical to IQ

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

EARLY NUTRITION can significantly influence mental ability later in life, a 16-year study by the Medical Research Council has proved.

Research into premature babies found those who were not given nutrient-enriched formula milk had lower IQs by the age of eight than those who had been given the special milk.

But because "critical" spurts in brain growth takes place between the last three months of pregnancy and age two, researchers conclude their findings could have significance for the nutrition of premature and full-term babies. In a randomised controlled trial, Professor Alan Lucas of the Institute of Child Health fed 424 premature babies a "nutrition enriched" pre-term formula milk or a standard formula for one month after birth.

In the MRC study, it was found that those infants fed the standard formula instead of the nutrient enriched one had reduced verbal IQ at 8 years. The effect was particularly notable in boys.

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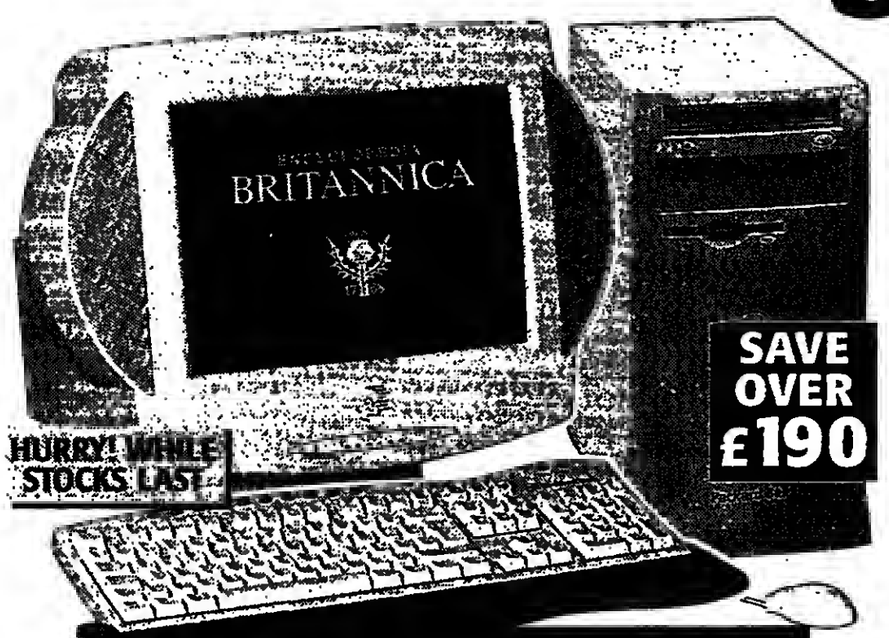

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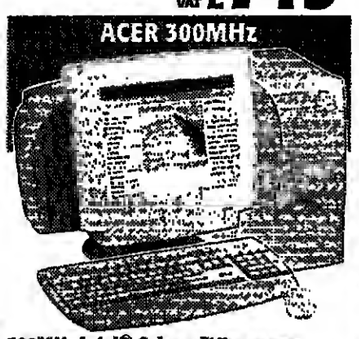

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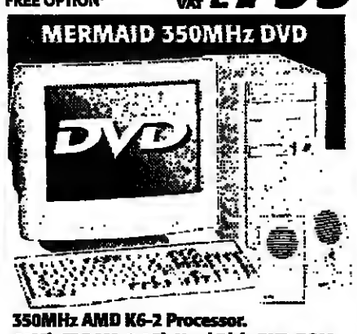

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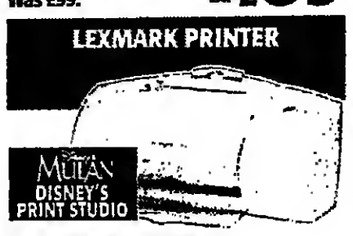

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Education: Whitehall is on a mission to place an extra 700,000 students in college, and is backing its drive with cash

Teenage learning gets £725m boost

Belinda Everiste, one of hundreds of students benefiting from an east London grant scheme *Mark Chilvers*

THE BIGGEST expansion of sixth-form and further education colleges was announced yesterday as the Government unveiled plans for a rapid acceleration of its drive to increase student numbers.

An extra 700,000 students will be offered places at college under the two-year programme announced by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

He announced an extra £725m to pay for the expansion, the biggest increase colleges have been given.

The expansion programme, which covers England alone, dwarfs Tony Blair's pledge to create 500,000 extra places in universities and colleges. Government sources said announcements on expansion in universities would follow.

The plans include bringing an extra 50,000 students aged 16 to 19 into full-time education.

By Ben Russell, Education Correspondent

Mr Blunkett also announced more support for sixth-form students. A series of pilot schemes offering teenagers from deprived areas £30 a week to go back to college will be launched next September. A £180m fund will also help students with transport and childcare costs.

But he warned that ministers "will be as tough on failing colleges as we have been on failing schools".

Mr Blunkett said: "Further education is too important to our economy and society for us to tolerate poor standards or a lack of accountability. Too many students drop out and too many fail to get their qualifications."

He added that there was too much "poor or inadequate teaching" and said in future all lecturers should have a teaching qualification.

Colleges have been heavily criticised for high drop-out rates, with 80 per cent of students failing to complete their course at some centres.

Mr Blunkett's announcement includes a £115m fund to raise standards. Government sources made clear that colleges failing to improve could face closure or merger.

But David Willetts, the Conservative spokesman on education, said the expansion would harm standards. "This is putting the quality of teaching at risk," he said. "£700m for 700,000 students is only £1,000 per student. This is far less than the average cost of educating children."

The 435 further education and sixth-form colleges in England offer courses for more than 4 million teenagers and adults. They are at the heart of the Government's drive to encourage cradle-to-grave education and they provide the vast bulk of the country's vocational training.

Colleges welcomed the announcement, saying it was a great step forward.

David Gibson, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, said: "Sixty per cent of colleges are currently trading at a deficit, following continuing cuts over the last five years. This programme for expansion will help us overcome our financial problems. We want to help many more people achieve their potential and this settlement will help us do that."

Some, however, sounded a note of caution. Colin Flint, principal of Solihull College, said: "There is a lot of good news, but there are some concerns that if we are going from a 500,000 target to a 700,000 target it may mean the money is being spread fairly thin. Of course, most of the students will be part-time and we are very good at dealing with part-time students."

Hard lesson in the price of studying

WHEN Belinda Everiste signed on at her local college to study three A-levels, most of her friends were deciding to try to find a job rather than continue with their education.

Belinda carried on with her studies and is working towards A-levels in performing arts, philosophy and history.

She hopes to become a teacher and said yesterday: "My first motive is to come to learn, but if I didn't have the funds behind me it would make it difficult.

"A lot of my friends decided to go and get a job."

Belinda, a student at Newham Sixth Form College, is one of hundreds who benefit from a scheme to offer grants to east London teenagers to persuade them to remain at school or college.

Many students at the college come from families on income support. The college offers many students free meals to reduce the cost of their course and two students a week ask about its hardship fund.

The borough council in Newham offers grants of £300 to all 16 to 19-year-olds from low-income backgrounds who are on full-time courses. The money, enough to pay for a few books and the bus fare to college, is paid out at the end of term – and only if students turn up for at least 80 per cent of their lessons.

Students at the college backed the idea of a weekly allowance.

Natalie Bruns, who is studying for a BTEC National Diploma in performing arts at the college, said: "I don't get a grant, but most of my friends at college do. They have a lot of problems with travel."

She added: "One of my friends has his own place and is on income support. He finds it very difficult to come to college and sometimes he can't come at all."

Mifta Ahmed, a student studying English, geography and law, gets a £350 grant from Tower Hamlets council, paid at the end of the year.

He said: "The grant works out at about £8 a week. I spend £6 or £7 on transport alone. But there are a lot of other expenses like books and paper.

"The grants are useful but they could be a bit higher."

Ben Russell

No market for Scots inaction

PLANS FOR a *World in Action* programme exploring alleged anti-English feeling in Scotland were scrapped yesterday because the producers did not find enough evidence of the problem to support it.

But the Scottish National Party is still determined to take the producers to the Independent Television Commission, claiming that *World in Action* behaved like "*agents provocateurs*" by seeking to hire actors to pose as English visitors in an attempt to test public reaction in Scottish streets.

Mike Russell, chief executive of the SNP, said: "We had a tip-off from a theatrical agent who had been approached by Granada who wanted to hire actors to go round with a hidden camera and hunt out anti-Englishness.

"If they had bothered to talk to me or the SNP before they started the research, they would have got the facts rather than smear claims.

"I am delighted good sense prevailed in this case, but I still feel the programme-makers acted in breach of the code and I think it should be brought before the ITC."

A *World in Action* spokesman said that while an agent had been approached about hiring actors, no further action was taken. He also denied that hidden cameras had been used. "We did get a member of the production team to wear an England rugby shirt," he added. "There had been reports of a case where a guy in an England shirt had been racially abused and therefore we were attempting to research reactions in the street to English symbols. He didn't get any reaction whatsoever."

By Rhys Williams

The failure to unearth any meaningful anti-English sentiment prompted Granada to abandon the project.

"We started the investigation after reports of problems with anti-Englishness, including comments made by the Scottish Tourist Board chairman and the problems the family of Leah Betts faced when they moved to Scotland," the spokesman explained.

"We have been carrying out research for some time now and we have reached the conclusion that there is not that much of a problem. There is no point in going ahead with a programme."

The SNP, which said that 2 out of 93 cases handled last year by the Commission for Racial Equality in Scotland involved alleged anti-Englishness, is nevertheless determined to press its grievances with the commission.

However, a commission spokeswoman said the watchdog could not get involved unless a programme appeared on screen.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Judge who escaped trial must pay costs

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE CROWN Court judge who avoided being retried for alleged mortgage fraud when the Attorney-General invoked an ancient legal device lost his attempt yesterday to recover his defence costs.

Judge Richard Gee, whose prosecution was controversially halted after a court was told he was a "broken man and a suicide risk", must pay the £70,000 expenses he incurred before legal aid was granted.

Refusing his application, Mrs Justice Heather Steel told the Old Bailey that there had been a clear case for Judge Gee to answer, before his retrial was halted.

"But for his ill health, the law would have taken its normal course and he would have been retried," she said.

"This is not a case where I could order legal aid contributions to be reimbursed. Equally, costs incurred prior to legal aid being granted should not, in all the circumstances, be subject to a defence costs order".

Judge Gee was at the centre of attention last month when the Attorney-General, John Morris, stepped in and halted a prosecution against the judge, who was accused of a £1m mortgage swindle.

Mr Morris invoked a *nolle prosequi* – a device first used in 1555 and used normally when a person is not well enough to stand trial – after psychiatrists warned that the judge was unfit and that his life could be at risk if he faced further proceedings.

Judge Gee, 56, who has homes in Belgravia, the United States and Portugal, and drives a Mercedes with the personalised number plates GEE 1, was originally arrested in November 1995, shortly after be returned from honeymooning in the Caribbean with Marilyn Gross, a New Yorker. He was later committed for trial, which was due to start in January this year. But last December he was diagnosed as suffering from a "moderately severe depressive illness" and his trial was postponed until March.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict after a record-breaking 13 days of deliberation and he was discharged in July, after the four-month trial.

In applying for Judge Gee's defence costs to be refunded yesterday, Stephen Batten QC maintained that a man was presumed innocent until convicted, and that the prosecution had failed to prove guilt.

He said the court might order any sums due or already paid to be returned if a man was acquitted, or the case was withdrawn.

Mrs Justice Steel said that while she accepted the presumption of the judge's innocence, she did "take into account it was never submitted there was not a prima facie case nor that the evidence did not support the charges made".

USS 'Stark' ratings on the Mayflower Steps, Plymouth; the city held a Thanksgiving celebration yesterday in the crew's honour *David Rose*

Jails to step up phone security

BY JASON BENNETTO AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

TELEPHONE SECURITY devices are to be fitted in all prisons to prevent inmates from harassing their victims from behind bars and ordering drugs to be brought into jail.

Prison officers and the police will also be able to eavesdrop on offenders and gain intelligence on other crimes.

The new "smart card" system allows the prison authorities to restrict which people inmates can telephone.

The initiative follows a number of high-profile cases in which inmates were able to "stalk" and terrorise people by telephoning them despite being in jail.

In one case a paedophile jailed for molesting boys continued to harass them with telephone calls and letters from prison. A victim aged 12 was reduced to tears when Andrew Charlton, 32, telephoned him at his home from Winchester jail. The boy's parents said that Charlton was using the protection of jail to assault their son further.

In another incident a violent offender, who obtained details of one of his victims from a police officer, would ring women from jail and terrorise them. In one case he obtained details of which clothes the woman had been wearing and telephoned her to describe them.

Inmates have also used the telephone to arrange for drugs to be dropped off at the perimeter fence.

The Prison Service has become concerned about an illegal market in phone cards, which has led to some inmates being intimidated and forced to hand them over.

From the beginning of January BT will start fitting new payphones that allow calls only to a pre-approved list of numbers. People will also be able to bar calls from jail if they do not want to receive any by tapping in a pin code.

The new telephones will be installed into maximum security jails first and to all prisons in England and Wales in about 18 months. BT said yesterday that it had won a £100m contract to carry out the work and maintain the system for 10 years.

George Howarth, the Home Office minister who announced the scheme, said yesteday: "This new technology will be a vital weapon in combating the menace of prisoners harassing victims from inside.

"It will allow people some peace of mind against the malicious behaviour of a small minority of prisoners who seek to continue to inflict misery on their victims in custody."

A Prison Service statement added: "Prisoners will be prevented from using the telephone for illicit purposes such as stalking or drug-dealing, while still able to maintain legitimate outside ties.

"The system affords the Prison Service an efficient means of managing prisoner calls and gathering intelligence and information about attempts at telephone misuse."

Church fury at 'fcuk xmas' ads

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

A HIGH-STREET fashion chain has provoked complaints from the Church of England and the Catholic Church with its latest advertising campaign urging shoppers to "fcuk xmas".

Church officials have written to Stephen Marks, the chief executive of French Connection, stating that the displays in shops across the country reflect the company's "callous indifference to the feelings of the great majority of people for whom Christmas is very special".

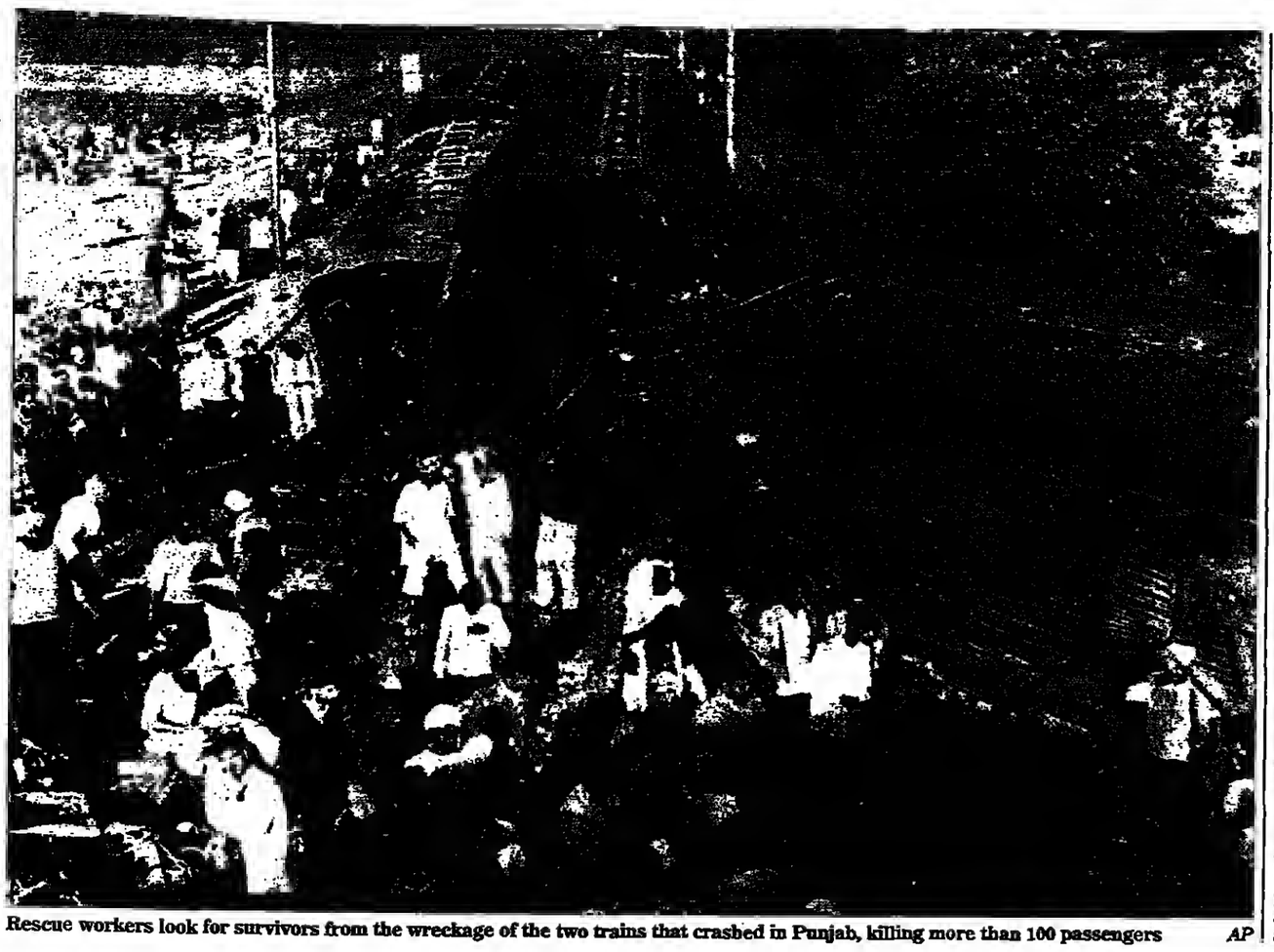
A spokeswoman said that Mr Marks had written back, saying that the window displays would stay in place for the present. "Fcuk is not meant to be offensive at all. It is only meant as a bit of fun," she added.

A spokeswoman for the Catholic Media Office said an apology was not enough. "We really do want them withdrawn," she said. "Christmas is a religious festival, yes, but it is also a family festival."

The company has come in for criticism before for similar advertising slogans, which exploit the initials of the company. Posters last year – one telling consumers to "fcuk fashion" and a second to do the same with "advertising" – were banned by the Advertising Standards Authority.

However, since the current campaign uses window displays, not paid-for advertisements, it falls outside the jurisdiction of the advertising authority.

Local authority trading standards officers are unlikely to intervene because they are concerned with whether shops are misleading customers rather than issues of taste.



Rescue workers look for survivors from the wreckage of the two trains that crashed in Punjab, killing more than 100 passengers AP

Schroder calls for faster EU integration

BY STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR, Gerhard Schröder, backed moves to quicken the pace of European integration yesterday, but shied away from endorsing fully fledged political union, which had been outlined by his Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer.

On his first official visit to the European Commission, Mr Schröder said a "unified Europe which does not stop at Germany's eastern border is a vision to which we all feel committed". His comments struck a different tone from those of Mr Fischer, underlining the deep divisions over Europe that have emerged at the top of the government during the last week.

That has caused concern in Brussels, not just because of Germany's central role in Europe, but because it takes over the presidency of the European Union in January. It has also provoked a vivid reaction among British Eurosceptics, complicating Tony Blair's task of edging Britain closer to the European mainstream.

Last Wednesday, Mr Fischer reignited the debate about the direction of Europe by calling for full political union, including a European army. His proposals caused consternation among diplomats.

In a newspaper interview, Mr Fischer said that when "full union" took place, foreign and security policy would become a community matter. "Just as we worked together on the first real transfer of sovereignty in the field of currencies, we ought to work on a common constitution to turn the European Union into an entity under international law."

Controversial comments from Mr Fischer, to the effect that Nato should abandon its first-strike capacity, were also disowned by other senior German government figures. During a visit to Washington, the Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, assured the United States Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, that Germany would continue to support Nato's first-strike policy.

Meanwhile, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, provoked alarm among central bankers with calls for cuts in interest rates, job creation and tax harmonisation across Europe. A promise to put tax harmonisation high on the agenda provoked threats of a veto from the British Chancellor.

The disarray reflects the nature of Mr Schröder's coalition with the Greens. In Brussels diplomats believe it will be months before the shape of new government can be judged properly: "It still hasn't crystallised", said one. "It is fine to talk vaguely about visions, but what matters is the decisions they take."

110 killed, 250 injured in Punjab train crash

BY PETER POPHAM in Delhi

AT LEAST 110 people died and 250 were injured in a train crash in the north Indian state of Punjab in the early hours of yesterday. A southbound express train ploughed into the coaches of another express, which had been travelling in the opposite direction near the village of Kauri.

Most of the 2,000 passengers aboard the two long-distance trains were asleep when the crash happened, at about 3.35am local time. It was India's worst train crash in three years, and the death toll is likely to rise further.

Among the dead were 40 soldiers going home to Calcutta. Last night bodies were still lying in the cars. The authorities have called for more gas cutters, cranes and other equipment.

The townspeople of Khanna, a wheat marketing town three miles away, were among the first to reach the site of the crash. Many residents took off their sweaters or shawls and offered them to passengers, many of whom were dressed in night clothes or had lost their belongings.

Thirteen million people ride India's rail network every day. It is one of the biggest systems in the world, but has no rivals for dilapidation and bad timekeeping. Yesterday's disaster was overshadowed by the catastrophe that occurred near Delhi in 1995, when 335 people died.

The first explanation for the crash, offered by the Railways Minister, Nitish Kumar, who toured the site yesterday morning, was that a defective coupling between two coaches of the Amritsar-bound Golden Temple Mail caused some of the coaches to be derailed; minutes later the southbound Sealdah Express ploughed into the derailed coaches, strewing wreckage across the tracks. Later it was being suggested that the true cause may have been that the two trains were erroneously directed along the same line. The police ruled out any suspicion that the crash might have been caused deliberately.

Rescue workers cut apart the crushed coaches with special equipment, but they were hampered in their efforts by spillages of diesel oil under the coaches, leading to fears of a fire.

Amritsar, destination of the northbound express, is the location of the Sikhs' holy Golden Temple.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

UN may give millions to Burma junta

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

SUPPORTERS OF the Burmese opposition reacted warily yesterday to news that the United Nations is considering offering the ruling military regime up to $1bn (£602m) in financial and humanitarian aid, in return for progress towards democracy.

The United Nations envoy, Alvaro de Soto, was in Rangoon last month to discuss the deal. Officials close to the project said that the reported $1bn figure of proposed aid and investment was untrue. But the United Nations and World Bank have been actively involved in trying to provide a suitable carrot-and-stick package that might unlock the stalemate between the opposition and the regime.

The Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett is understood to have sought further assurances from Mr de Soto in recent days that money would not be disbursed without guarantees.

Certainly, the main worry of supporters of the Burmese opposition is that the regime could, in effect, take the money and run. Officials emphasise that the Burmese government is a long way from saying yes. Much though they would like the money, the military regime is not keen on negotiating with Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the New League for Democracy, which won more than 80 per cent of the seats in elections in 1990.

Equally, if they do decide to accept the offer, that could itself be problematic. John Jackson, a director of the Burma Action Group, said: "If they accept, I would be extremely sceptical." He argued that mere negotiations with the opposition should not be enough to loosen international purse strings. "They could negotiate for years and *it wouldn't achieve anything.*"

The stalemate between the regime and the opposition has focused minds on both sides. The NLD has made little progress in pressing for change. Meanwhile, the combination of the Asian crisis and the generals' dismal management of the economy means that some at least in the regime are worried that they, too, are in a political cul-de-sac. Splits in the regime have been widely rumoured.

Publicly, Britain has taken a lead in pressing for tougher action against Burma. It also hosted a meeting, attended by officials from a clutch of Western and Asian countries, at which the de Soto initiative was discussed.

Britain's own position is ambiguous. It was revealed last week that the new Burmese foreign minister was being allowed into Britain, in contravention of an EU visa ban. U Win Aung, the ambassador to London since 1995, is "foreign minister designate" and he is about to leave for Burma permanently.

■ *Nepal and Bhutan are to* resume talks involving the repatriation of nearly 100,000 Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal for the past eight years. Relations between the two Himalayan kingdoms have been strained since Nepalese-speaking Bhutanese started fleeing to Nepal in the early Eighties after Bhutan tightened citizenship regulations.

Visitors exploring the shores of Heron Island on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef in the world, which the environmental group Greenpeace is fighting to protect from mining *Neville Coleman*

Greens rejoice in park protest

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

GREEN PROTESTERS in Australia are claiming a crucial victory in their battle with the government over the future of a national park.

The protesters spent the dry season camping outside the Jabiluka uranium mine, which is surrounded by the Kakadu National Park, a World Heritage Site (WHS). The site includes remains at Malakunanja which led to the discovery that Australia was inhabited by humans 60,000 years ago.

This week a group of United Nations scientists said continuing mineral extraction would be incompatible with the area's heritage and the UN World Heritage Committee, meeting in Japan, over the next few days, is expected to call for it to stop.

The Northern Territory site is one of three where mining threatens areas of the highest international importance.

A month ago, Greenpeace began direct action on an oil-from-shale operation in Queensland, on a lease that extends into the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. And Shark Bay Resources, in Western Australia, has applied to extend salt mining into another WHS.

Japan's 'sorry' not enough for visiting Jiang

Jiang Zemin (left), China's President, and Japan's Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, in Tokyo yesterday *Reuters*

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

THE JAPANESE government was trying to put a brave face on the state visit of the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, last night after reports of a dispute between the two sides over a Japanese apology for wartime atrocities.

Japanese officials insisted publicly that a historic meeting between Mr Jiang and the Japanese Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, had been successful, but there were persistent rumours of a falling-out after Tokyo refused to make a written apology for its brutal invasion and occupation of China during the 1930s.

The two men had been expected to issue a signed document committing themselves to increased co-operation and partnership in what has always been one of the frostiest and most troubled relationships in East Asia.

Although their statement was made public, the two leaders did not put their names beneath it, provoking speculation that the Chinese side had refused to sign in anger over the apology.

"There was a very earnest exchange of views, but with a positive atmosphere prevailing throughout," Mr Obuchi's spokesman, Sadaaki Numata, said last night.

"The Japan-China relationship has now entered a new phase. They discussed real issues and there was a feeling of mutual satisfaction."

During the meeting Mr Obuchi repeated an apology made in 1995 by his predecessor, which expressed "deep remorse" for his country's "aggression" during the Pacific War. But it stopped short of the written apology that was presented to the South Korean President, Kim Dae Jung, during the Japanese leader's visit last month.

For all the positive spin deployed by officials, it has been an unpredictable state visit between the two countries. Up until the past few days, Japanese officials were unable to forecast the likely contents of the meeting, and the two foreign ministers were still conducting intensive talks on the night before President Jiang's arrival from Russia.

The issue of war apology and responsibility has cropped up ever since 1978, when Tokyo and Peking first stabilised their relations with a treaty of peace and friendship. There is still an argument over Taiwan, which China regards as a breakaway Chinese province but with which Japan conducts a flourishing and independent two-way trade. Fresh tensions have arisen recently over the scope and range of Japan's military activities.

Japan has recently renegotiated its defence guidelines with the US and undertaken new responsibilities in helping its ally.

In the past, Japan's military role was strictly limited to the defence of its home islands and territorial waters. Now, Tokyo is offering to carry out non-combat logistical support, including medical help, supplies and mine-sweeping.

China fears that the situation being prepared for is a conflict between itself and the United States over Taiwan, and that Japan is passively taking the side of the US.

Since North Korea launched a test rocket over its territory in August, Japan has also begun planning a missile defence system – another development that irritates the Chinese.

Tokyo, for its part, is uneasy about the recent chumminess between Mr Jiang and President Bill Clinton, and the shared disapproval that the two of them have expressed over Japan's failure to overcome its economic problems.

The unsigned joint statement covered little fresh ground. Mostly it reaffirmed previous positions stated by the two sides. The territorial dispute over a group of islands lying between China and Japan was not addressed. But Japan did agree to provide economic assistance of 390 billion yen for various projects, including the construction of a "bullet train" between Shanghai and Peking.

Iraqis claim assassination was staged

By Tony Robertson
in Cairo

AN IRAQI opposition group yesterday disputed government reports of an assassination attempt on the life of Saddam Hussein's deputy.

Baghdad "falsified" the reports to "increase repression" on Shiite Muslims in southern and central Iraq, said a statement by the London-based Iraqi National Congress.

The statement was also read over the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, a radio station that operates in northern Iraq and is affiliated to INC, an umbrella of several Iraqi opposition groups.

State-run Baghdad television reported on Monday that assailants threw two grenades at Izzat Ibrahim, President Saddam's deputy, as he got out of his car Sunday in the central Shiite holy city of Karbala to attend a religious ceremony. He was unhurt.

"The [Iraqi] regime falsified this attack in order to increase repression of the Shiite people in central and southern Iraq," said the INC statement.

Baghdad television said several bodyguards and bystanders were wounded in the assassination attempt.

The INC statement said that on the day of the alleged attack, Ibrahim – who is Saddam's deputy on the powerful Revolutionary Command Council and deputy commander of the Iraqi armed forces – was leading troops from the élite Republican Guard, the Emergency Units and Saddam's Fedayeen, as part of the "national campaign to capture [army] deserters."

President Saddam's Fedayeen is a paramilitary force of 40,000 run by his eldest son, Odai.

The Emergency Units is part of the Iraqi army, specialized in combating riots, rebellions and other disturbances.

Clashes broke out between Ibrahim's forces and the Shiites as arrests were being made, and a number of soldiers were killed, said the INC statement. "But there was no attempt against Izzat Ibrahim personally." It said the assassination attempt was falsified to justify the "mass arrests of young people in the town" and the clashes between Ibrahim's forces and the people of Karbala.

It said the campaign to capture army deserters was launched on 7 November in several Iraqi towns in the southern marshes, where thousands of deserters and Shiite rebels take refuge and carry out hit-and-run attacks against government forces.

■ Iraq's defiance of Washington brought most Arab nations to its side and has proved that the United States was not the world's only superpower, President Saddam was quoted as saying yesterday.

He said it did not matter if the "feeble and weak" Arab rulers did not support him during his stand-off with the United States over UN weapons inspections.

"We are not frustrated if we fail to persuade" Arab rulers to support Iraq, state-run newspapers quoted the Iraqi president as saying.

Miriam Peretz is comforted as she mourns her son, Uriel, at a military cemetery in Jerusalem yesterday AP/Nati Harnik

Bomb kills two as Hizbollah attacks increase

By Patrick Cockburn
in Jerusalem

A ROADSIDE bomb killed two Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon early yesterday in the latest in an upsurge of attacks by Hizbollah, the militant Islamic Lebanese group, in the past week. The attack was made against a patrol outside the village of Markaba, bringing to 17 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon this year.

Israel fears Hizbollah is launching a new offensive using more sophisticated tactics than in the past to raise the number of Israeli casualties, which had decreased in recent months. In an attack 10 days ago bombers penetrated to within 30 yards of an Israeli base to plant devices that were later detonated by remote control. Lieutenant Uriel Peretz, 22, a company commander, and Sergeant Nitzan Baldran, 19, who were on patrol, were killed.

Israeli soldiers were reported to be looking for the body parts of the dead men. In the past, Hizbollah has exchanged such human remains for its prisoners held by Israel.

An increase in Israeli casualties is likely to revive calls for an Israeli withdrawal from its occupation zone in south Lebanon. These have diminished over the past year because of a fall in Israeli losses from Hizbollah attacks, which peaked in 1997.

In London, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, held talks with Tony Blair yesterday. Before the meeting he said he expected his coalition government to hold together and deliver a Middle East peace deal.

Mr Netanyahu's cabinet and party are divided over the limited withdrawal from the West Bank by Israel under the terms of the American-brokered land for security deal agreed at the Wye Plantation in Washington.

Before leaving for Britain Mr Netanyahu appeared close to shoring up his government by negotiating the return to his cabinet of David Levy, the former Israeli foreign minister who resigned earlier this year in protest at the deadlock in talks with the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu is also holding talks with the opposition Labour Party about forming a national unity government. Ariel Sharon, the Foreign Minister, has been having talks with Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, although many Israeli commentators do not believe that Mr Netanyahu really intends to share power.

Banana flees after sodomy verdict

By James Roberts

ZIMBABWE HAS issued a warrant for the arrest of its former president Canaan Banana, who has fled the country after being found guilty of sodomy.

Banana, 62, was ceremonial president [illegible] independence in 1980 [illegible] when Robert Mug[illegible] himself executive President. He was found guilty yesterday on 11 counts of sodomy and homosexual assault, and faces up to 22 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for 10 December.

Augustine Chikumira, the Chief Prosecutor, said Banana illegally went to neighbouring Botswana before the verdict. He said the government would seek Banana's extradition.

Zimbabwe's state-controlled *Herald* newspaper reported that Banana, who is a Methodist minister, may have taken refuge with the Anglican church in Botswana.

Botswana's deputy police commissioner, Edwin Batshu, said extradition proceedings would begin once Banana was found. He could face charges for entering Botswana without a passport.

The case has embarrassed President Mugabe, who insists that homosexuality is a Western import, foreign to African culture, and has described homosexuals as "lower than pigs and dogs".

Fugitive: Canaan Banana

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

I am not a prude, Starr tells America

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE RE-INVENTION of Kenneth Starr as a doughty fighter for American justice and a modest lawyer just doing his job took a step forward on Wednesday night with an hour-long interview on ABC television in which he sought to banish his negative image. Deliberately low-key, the man castigated by President Bill Clinton as evil softened his voice, smiled and laughed at the awkward questions and offered to talk about his sex life, if that was what the interviewer, Diane Sawyer, wanted – she didn't.

To counter his image of stodgy formality, Mr Starr appeared in casual jacket, open-necked lumber shirt and beige slacks, sitting back on his sofa. He dismissed the idea that he harboured personal animosity towards the Clintons. He stated, as released in advance by ABC, that he thought Mr Clinton "extraordinarily talented, wonderfully empathetic", and also offered a tribute to Hillary: "Very, very intelligent, very dedicated to the things she believes in..."

He repeatedly, but in the end unsuccessfully, denied that he was at all "prudish" or self-righteous, but said he disapproved of extra-marital sex and had never been unfaithful to his wife of 28 years. As for the idea that he was a dour fundamentalist, or an obsessive crusader against the Clintons, he insisted he had "a too of friends" at school and brought in the other members of his legal team to quash the notion that he was a loner. There was "no one, no one" in the investigators' office, said his associate Brett Kavanaugh, who believed the Monica Lewinsky affair should not have been investigated.

Mr Starr himself was bullish in his defence of the investigation, including the much-criticised tactics of prosecutors, who had detained Ms Lewinsky for 10 hours and resisted her requests either to call her mother or her lawyer. Members of his team intimated that he had been a little naive about prosecution tactics, never having been a prosecutor himself. Mr Starr, however, appeared to have adapted to the prosecutorial culture without undue difficulty.

"It was fair and right to go to someone who is in the midst of a very serious thing," he said, referring to her efforts to persuade her confidante, Linda Tripp, to lie under oath. "She was in the process of committing serious offences."

Mr Starr did say, however, that there were some aspects that could have been better handled, including Linda Tripp. The fact that she had been informing both his office and lawyers for Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against Mr Clinton had confused the issue and laid his office open to allegations that it was conspiring with the Jones team against the President.

Striking a sadder and more genuinely personal note, Mr Starr as good as admitted that his investigation of the President had probably lost him all chance of the Supreme Court post that was his life's ambition. "I know," he said, "that there's a time and a season, and I think that time, had there been one, has long since passed."

Admiral in sex scandal probe

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE UNITED States admiral who faces possible court martial over charges of adultery and lying is also accused of favouring his mistress, a defence contractor, in the award of naval contracts, it emerged yesterday.

Rear-Admiral John Scudi's name hit the headlines on Wednesday with a report in the right-wing *Washington Times* newspaper that he had been suspended from his post at the Pentagon and transferred to the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia, after allegations about two adulterous relationships.

With the allegations in the open, the Pentagon, which had said nothing about the case previously and declined to answer questions from the *Washington Times*, suddenly took a new tack, confirming the investigation and offering additional details.

According to defence officials, the charges of adultery and lying against Admiral Scudi were secondary to those involving what was described as the "unlawful awarding of government contracts". At the Pentagon, Admiral Scudi was in charge of the Navy's office of outsourcing and privatisation.

He is alleged to have had two extramarital relationships, one with a defence contractor and the other with a civilian employee of the Navy. The defence contractor is alleged to have informed on him to the authorities. Officials said he is accused of directing about $150,000 (£91,000) of contracts to a consulting firm owned by his mistress, without seeking competitive bids.

That the Pentagon decided to release information about the charges against Admiral Scudi suggests officials were concerned to differentiate between the allegations against the admiral and those against President Bill Clinton.

Bystanders and police gather at the scene of the murder of Edwin Njuguna in the city of Napa. Gang violence has been increasing in the area AP

Napa Valley: the latest crime capital

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Napa, California

GUNFIRE IS not a sound commonly associated with the Napa Valley, California's celebrated wine-making area tucked away in the hills north of San Francisco. Or at least it wasn't until an eruption of armed violence over the past two weeks, in which nine teenagers have been treated for gunshot wounds and the city of Napa has become America's latest, and least likely, capital of crime.

After months of simmering tensions, rival gangs of Latino teenagers staged a bloody shoot-out in a run-down corner of the city at the beginning of last week. Two days later, a gang member sought revenge by opening fire with a 22-calibre automatic pistol on a queue of high school students waiting for their morning bus. Not only did he hit his intended target, the 14-year-old brother of one of the participants in the earlier fight, he also injured two other teenagers.

This shooting marked a sharp increase in the feuds pitting disenfranchised Latino teenagers against each other in one of the most affluent corners of the United States.

Certainly, it was the first time bystanders had been caught up in the violence. And it has set Napa thinking it might be on the verge of a gang war. "A lot is in jeopardy here, because of the wineries and the tourist industry. They are going to have to find a solution to this because if it runs out of control it will be a big, big problem," warned Gilbert Lopez, a former gang member turned Pentecostal minister.

City authorities have been cautious in their comments, clearly worried about the impact any further violence might have on the livelihood of the area. The police insist Napa is still a safe place to visit, and the tourist office says it has received no panic calls.

But for leaders of the Latino community, which does almost all the menial work in the wine industry as well as the hotel and restaurant trades but receives little recognition, it is clear a crisis point has been reached. "People feel a great rage about what is going on, because they feel they are essentially in an apartheid situation," said Guillermo Brito, who runs a social services centre. "If the system keeps people down instead of helping them to empower themselves, it is a recipe for major conflict down the line."

The scourge of gang violence has hit Napa in much the same way that it has spread throughout California. Turf wars in Los Angeles in the late 1970s and early 1980s led families to send children out of town, thus contributing unwittingly to the dissemination of the phenomenon.

In state prisons, Mexicans then divided themselves into two clans, the Nortenos and the Surenos – northerners and southerners. Partly this was a matter of where they had settled in California, the city of Bakersfield being the rough dividing line. Partly it was a matter of integration. Second or third-generation Latinos formed friendships with whites, creating the Norteno gang together, and looked down on Sureno newcomers, whom they call "scraps" or "corns".

In the Napa Valley, the two gangs fight over issues of identity. The Nortenos wear red, the Surenos blue, and they clash all along the Napa river valley, from the city of Napa itself to the cutesy town of Calistoga, famous for its mud baths as well as its wine.

Mostly the violence has taken the form of beatings, clubbings or the occasional knife attack. Six months ago Napa experienced its first drive-by shooting, causing the death of a 17-year-old boy. In Westwood, the Napa city neighbourhood where the latest violence has occurred, the situation is explosive because Nortenos and Surenos live on the same streets.

For many Latinos in the Napa Valley, the gang violence is a symptom of desperation experienced by young people with little to fill their time and little to look forward to except a sense of alienation. There are few role models other than the "cool" gang leaders on the street. Only a tiny fraction of the valley's schoolteachers and police officers speak Spanish, and fewer still show much cultural understanding of their situation.

The valley's main economic and political interest groups have pressed for an end to the bad publicity before it damages the wine and tourist industries and they have urged the police to catch the culprits. One of two guns used in the recent shootings has been found, and an unnamed 17-year-old arrested.

Such limited action does not address the broader issues at stake for the Latinos – adequate wages, education and healthcare, primarily – and do little to bridge the gap between the two communities. Latinos make up 80 per cent of the valley's population, and the proportion is growing. "California is in for a rude awakening," Mr Brito said. "It depends on Mexicans for labour but offers them little or nothing in return. The gangs are only one piece of a much larger problem."

Arms secrets 'leaked to Web'

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THOUSANDS OF sensitive documents relating to US national security have been leaked, according to reports on the Internet yesterday.

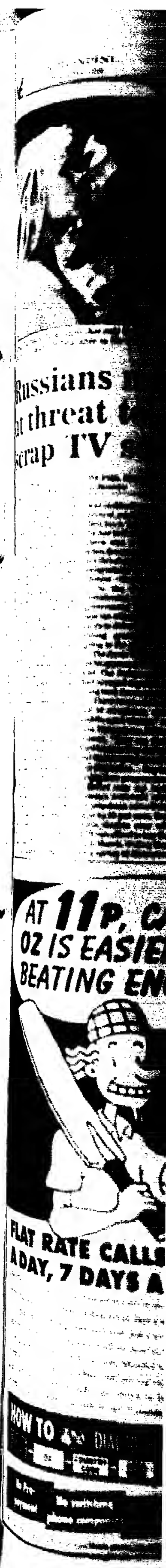
But America's mainstream media, preoccupied with the Thanksgiving holiday, seemed not to want to know.

The documents, as many as 20,000 pages of them, are said to detail efforts by the Clinton administration to conceal the extent of Iraq's weapons development plans, White House approval for exports of sensitive satellite technology to China, and information about the incentives offered by Washington to North Korea in return for curbing its nuclear programme – terms that North Korea has in the event ignored.

The reports on Iraq's weapons programme could prove especially embarrassing as they reportedly confirm much of the information provided by the former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter when he argued that Iraq was successfully concealing the scale of its plans to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The leak was reported by the anti-establishment Internet journalist Matt Drudge. He is shunned by mainstream journalists as a gossip-monger, but many of his reports on the Monica Lewinsky affair, deemed too risqué or politically problematical by Washington reporters, turned out to be true.

Verbatim details from the papers were not available yesterday, and Murray Waas, the reporter said to have the papers, could not be reached. Drudge suggested that Waas, who writes for the pro-Clinton Internet magazine *Salon*, was reluctant to divulge the contents while Bill Clinton faces impeachment proceedings.



'Santa Barbara' fans claim that only their favourite soap opera can make life bearable in Russia today

Russians rebel at threat to scrap TV soap

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

COULD THIS be the straw that breaks the camel's back? Russia's 147 million population weathers extreme cold, queues, shortages, mass unemployment and contract killings with astounding patience. But you mess about with *Santa Barbara* at your peril.

Forced by plunging revenues to take the soap opera off the air after eight years, state-run RTR television has appealed for help from the government, warning that the loss of the serial is an issue of "national security".

Its alarm appears to be shared by the fans, 10 million of whom tuned in nightly until the plug was pulled a month ago. RTR says it has received hundreds of calls and letters of protest. Viewers have formed a "Committee to save *Santa Barbara*"; this week there was a small demonstration outside the television station in Moscow, featuring middle-aged women waving placards.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, soaps have become hugely popular in Russia. Members of *Santa Barbara* supporters' clubs meet to study the geography of California and share fantasies about life on the rich west coast of America. When Veronica Castro, the Mexican star of the equally popular soap *The Rich Also Cry*, visited Moscow in 1992, she was mobbed by fans, including several ministers, and President Boris Yeltsin held a dinner for her in the Kremlin. In 1994, there was a national outcry when the communication workers threatened to black out the programme in an industrial protest – they won their case.

On the day of the last presidential election, the pro-government television channels ran extra episodes of soaps to try to deter the Communist-voting grandmothers from going to the polls.

The *Santa Barbara* fans may yet be appeased. Yesterday, RTR told *The Independent* that it had scraped together funds to bring back the serial next week.

"I have received a huge number of complaints, most from middle-aged women," said Yelena Tikhomirova, RTR spokeswoman. "They say that life is hard because they don't get paid, and that the programme is their only distraction ... they insist on having their programme back."

Relief may not last long. Russia's economic crisis has cut television advertising revenue by 80 per cent; there are grave doubts over whether RTR can afford to buy the soap after March, setting the stage for a spring of discontent.

Old junkies never die, they go into a retirement home

EUROPEAN TIMES
ROTTERDAM

CHRISTMAS WILL come early this year for Carlos Prade. In a few weeks' time, Rotterdam's newest residential home for retired people will be ready and Carlos will be moving in. Peering through a pair of funky blue tinted glasses, Carlos admits he is weary now. He wants to take it easy, let someone else take the strain.

Although a fresh-faced 59, he suffers from aches and pains, his hands are shaking and he speaks in a whisper. His grip on reality appears tenuous. He shuffles off mid-conversation and then suddenly says: "I want to go to England. To see Elizabeth." Then he breaks into a song.

In the home, a converted town house, Carlos will have his own room and bathroom. There will be television, a communal kitchen for anyone capable of cooking. Round-the-clock medical care is guaranteed as well as trained staff to look after his "psycho-social needs". There will not be any official supply of dope heroin or cocaine. But Carlos has no worries on that score. He is about to become the first resident of the world's first old folks home for drug addicts.

The Netherlands has the healthiest drug addicts in the world. So healthy that they are turning into pensioners and the authorities have a geriatric drug policy dilemma on their hands.

The average age of drug users in the country has risen to 36, the highest in the world. Thanks to a policy based on health rather than criminalisation, that is increasing by 10 months each year. In Rotterdam alone at least 100 people have made it to the age bracket of 55 to 70.

But substance abuse takes its toll and, although they are living longer, Dutch junkies are old before their time. "At 55 or 60 they are displaying symptoms of people 20 years older. Senility is common. They forget things and feel threatened," explained Harry Kuiper of the Boumanhuis Foundation, one of the biggest drug addiction agencies in the Netherlands.

Most old people fret about keeping warm and getting to the shops and the pension office. But geriatric junkies have the added stress of having to hold their own in the drug scene which, even in an ultra-tolerant society where consumption is not prosecuted, is run by criminals. Procuring narcotics, knowing when you are being fobbed off with inferior stuff and finding enough money to keep the dealers happy is not that easy when you have difficulty walking unaided.

Now, in response to a novel proposal from the Rotterdam Junkiebond, the drug addicts' union, the municipal health authority has agreed to finance an old folks home, devoted exclusively to drug users, for a one-year pilot scheme.

"This will be a totally new development not just for the Netherlands and Europe, but for the world," said Mr Kuiper, a keen supporter of the plan.

It is not on, he says, to integrate the junkies with ordinary senior citizens because they might have difficulty finding acceptance. "Most elderly people would tolerate a person taking a drink or smoking a cigarette, but just one gram of heroin in an old people's home and they would want you out."

Nora Storm, whose idea it was, has already given the residence a name. "Coconuts. One of the old men chose it," she said. "He's on coke and he's nuts".

A formidable woman in her fifties, Ms Storm is the Junkiebond president and has turned her own home over to accommodation for junkies of all ages. She runs a tight ship. Drugs are allowed in the rooms but you must show that you are making an effort to limit consumption and you must find a job and pay your way.

The inauguration of Coconuts means she can at last stop worrying about the grand-daddies as she calls them. "They can't cope. Their brains are going and they leave on the gas sometimes. And they are lonely. The music is not the same these days. They also have the problem that their grandchildren won't visit them."

Initially, the plan is to restrict the home to seven residents. Out of their pensions they will pay about £180 a month rent. There will be no pressure to kick the habit. So where will the drugs come from? "It won't be a problem," is all Nora will say. She foresees a growing demand for such homes and insists that it should be up to the national health service to take over the cost and running of them. Mr Kuiper agrees. "This is not an indulgence or an amusement," he said. "These people need special care."

The broad-minded Netherlands approach to drug use is legendary but a national home plan for old junkies may be a bridge too far. Rotterdam's health authority is pioneering a controversial scheme to distribute free heroin to serious addicts but, even here, the location of the house is being kept secret. "Neighbours think it will attract traffickers to the area. But we certainly don't want it to be in an isolated part of town, cut off from the community," said Mr Kuiper.

Local newspapers have been running stories about how drugs will be delivered each day by the home's in house dealer. A claim flatly denied by all involved. "There will be no buying or selling. Not in the house," Mr Kuiper said.

"In the end," he sighed, "it all comes down to an acceptance of drug use. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether we can accept elderly people using heroin, even in small amounts. I'm not sure everyone can. This might be too much, even for Holland."

KATHERINE BUTLER

A customer legally lighting up a cannabis cigarette in a coffee shop in Amsterdam *Hadj Jobard*

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

ICI sells utilities arm for £300m

ICI YESTERDAY said it had agreed to sell its utilities and services operation in Teesside to Enron, the US energy group, for £300m.

The sale, part of ICI's strategy of focusing on speciality products, coatings and materials, includes The Wilton power station, a water treatment plant, pipelines, rail tracks and1760 acres of land.

The Teesside operation employs 560 people who will transfer to Enron. It produced profits of £35m this year on sales of £150m. ICI will record a net gain of £120m from the disposal.

Laura Ashley to cut 100 jobs

LAURA ASHLEY, chaired by John Thornton (left), yesterday announced that it will shed over 100 jobs in Wales by the end of January. The closure of the Oswestry garments plant will result in the loss of 70 jobs, with a reduction in services at Carno accounting for a further 30 job losses. Plans to sell the Oswestry factory were announced in January, but Laura Ashley has been unable to find a buyer. Laura Ashley will also close a factory at Helmond, in the Netherlands.

Aeroplane makers investigated

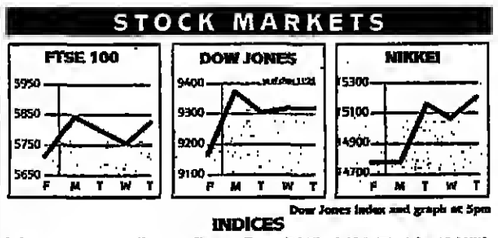
AIRBUS AND BOEING, the world's two largest plane makers, are under investigation by competition authorities over allegations of price-fixing. The United States Federal Trade Commission launched the probe after both companies revealed plans to increase prices on new orders. Boeing said earlier this year it would increase list prices on most of its aircraft by 5 per cent while Airbus announced a 3 per cent increase.

Boeing and Airbus were asked to submit pricing information and answer preliminary questions by the end of last month. Airbus – 20 per cent owned by British Aerospace – insisted there had been no collusion to fix prices.

£100,000 raise for Kingfisher chief

SIR GEOFF MULCHAHY, chief executive of retail group Kingfisher, has received a £100,000 pay rise to £725,000. The information is included in the company's document relating to the merger of B&Q, Kingfisher's DIY subsidiary and Castorama, the French retailer.

STOCK MARKETS

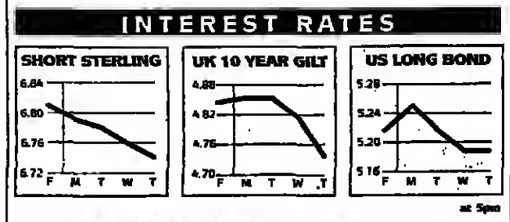


Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5827.90	72.60	1.26	6183.70	4599.20	3.23
FTSE 250	4940.90	14.50	0.29	5971.00	4248.00	2.05
FTSE 350	2758.50	30.10	1.10	2969.00	2210.00	1.11
FTSE All Share	2660.89	27.98	1.06	2886.52	2143.53	3.50
FTSE SmallCap	2067.60	5.40	0.26	2793.80	1834.40	3.50
FTSE Fledgling	1141.40	1.20	0.11	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE AIM	816.30	-1.60	-0.20	1146.90	761.30	0.00
FTSE EBLOC 100	978.93	22.96	2.40	...	...	...
Dow Jones	9314.28	13.13	0.14	9380.00	7400.00	1.61
Nikkei	15207.77	134.30	0.89	17353.00	12788.00	0.96
Hang Seng	10778.92	57.93	0.54	11926.00	6545.00	2.90
Dax	5051.63	107.26	2.17	6217.00	3893.00	1.76

INTEREST RATES

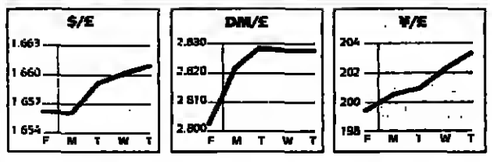


at 5pm

MONEY MARKET RATES / BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.94	-0.74	6.41	-1.47	4.74	-1.79	4.47	-1.96
US	5.25	-0.63	5.12	-0.88	4.83	...	5.19	...
Japan	0.43	-0.08	0.49	-0.12	1.08	-0.87	1.72	-0.89
Germany	3.65	-0.10	3.50	-0.59	4.06	-1.43	4.88	-1.20

CURRENCIES



POUND

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6609	-0.05c	1.6740
D-Mark	2.8281	-0.60pf	2.9469
Yen	203.23	+¥1.06	212.80
£ Index	101.60	-0.10	104.10

DOLLAR

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6021	+0.02p	0.5974
D-Mark	1.7018	-0.35pf	1.7607
Yen	122.36	+¥0.69	127.14
$ Index	107.10	-0.30	107.20

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next fgs
Brent Oil ($)	10.25	-0.05	18.56	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Gold ($)	296.55	0.35	296.55	RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55	Nov
Silver ($)	4.92	0.01	5.27	Base Rates	6.75	7.25		

*at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.5126	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.92
Austria (schillings)	19.32	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0986
Belgium (francs)	56.76	New Zealand ($)	2.9915
Canada ($)	2.4875	Norway (krone)	12.20
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8093	Portugal (escudos)	279.84
Denmark (krone)	10.51	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0479
Finland (markka)	8.3774	Singapore ($)	2.6061
France (francs)	9.2180	Spain (pesetas)	233.56
Germany (marks)	2.7594	South Africa (rands)	9.0704
Greece (drachma)	462.59	Sweden (krone)	13.38
Hong Kong ($)	12.46	Switzerland (francs)	2.2854
Ireland (punts)	1.1046	Thailand (bahts)	54.84
Indian (rupees)	63.40	Turkey (lirasl)	479243
Israel (shekels)	6.4036	USA ($)	1.6214
Italy (lira)	2736		
Japan (yen)	198.42		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0479		
Malta (lira)	0.6121		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

CBI warns chances of recession now 50-50

BY MICHAEL HARRISON AND LEA PATERSON

THE CONFEDERATION of British Industry warned yesterday that there is a 50:50 chance of a recession as it slashed its growth forecasts for the economy and called for a further half-point cut in interest rates.

In its latest economic assessment, the employers' organisation painted a much gloomier picture of Britain's prospects than the Chancellor Gordon Brown.

The CBI's warning will be echoed today by the British Chambers of Commerce, which speaks for thousands of small firms across the country. It also wants the Bank of England to cut interest rates again before Christmas. "A further half point cut now is essential to keep recession off the agenda in 1999," said Chris Humphries, director general of the BCC.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday fuelled concern about the economy when he said that the UK's record trade deficit, announced on Wednesday, had been "germane" to the Bank's decision to cut interest rates earlier this month. "They [the trade figures] are a reflection of what is happening to external demand," he told MPs at the Treasury Select Committee.

Two of Mr George's colleagues on the Monetary Policy Committee insisted that lower interest rates were necessary to keep the economy on course.

Willem Buiter stood by his decision to vote for a 0.75 point rate cut at the MPC meeting a fortnight ago, while DeAnne Julius admitted that there was a possibility that economic growth could turn negative next year.

However, the Bank Governor gave mixed signals to the MPs, hinting that another cut in rates could be off the agenda until the new year. The Governor said: "The half per cent reduction in rates we made earlier this month we judged to be sufficient to bring retail price inflation back on track to 2 and a half per cent."

The CBI is forecasting that GDP growth will fall to just 0.7 per cent next year and then rise to 1.8 per cent in 2000. This compares with the Chancellor's forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent growth next year and 2.25 to 2.75 per cent the year after.

Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economic adviser, said there was now at least a 50 per cent chance of a technical recession – two successive quarters of falling output. But she said the dangers of Britain suffering an outright recession of the kind experienced in the early 1990s were much lower.

Three months ago the CBI was forecasting growth of 1.2 per cent next year. But since then the economic situation has deteriorated further. The CBI's latest monthly industrial trends survey shows total order books at their lowest for six years and expectations on output at their lowest since 1991, making a recession in manufacturing increasingly likely.

"We face a major slowdown next year and the risks to growth are clearly on the downside while inflationary risks are slight," said Ms Barker.

"We need a further half-point reduction in interest rates at the MPC's December meeting to underpin consumer and business confidence."

Peter Salsbury, the new chief executive of Marks & Spencer, intside its Finsbury Pavement store in the City yesterday

Salsbury takes helm at M&S

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

MARKS & SPENCER finally resolved its damaging management succession battle yesterday when it named Peter Salsbury as its new chief executive.

Mr Salsbury, who is 49 and has worked at M&S since joining as a management trainee 28 years ago, will move up to the top job in January when current chairman and chief executive Sir Richard Greenbury takes a step back to become non-executive chairman. Sir Richard will retire in May 2000, a year earlier than anticipated.

The re-shuffle leaves no place for Keith Oates, the deputy chairman who made a high-profile, last-ditch challenge for the job this month. He leaves with immediate effect with a pay-off yet to be finalised. He said he was "disappointed" at the board's decision but that he looked forward to "one more full -time role" either in the UK or overseas.

The succession marks a victory for the combative Sir Richard who has made no secret that Mr Salsbury was his favoured heir. But the new boardroom structure received a mixed reaction from City analysts with some saying the company required more radical change.

As the shares fell 24.5p to 421p, one analyst said: "It is disappointing. It is a victory for the old guard. Oates was the only guy who stood up to Greenbury and he's been kicked out. Salsbury has presided over the worst clothing season M&S has ever had."

Others were more charitable and said that Mr Salsbury may prove more innovative than he has been given credit for.

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Yesterday the usually secretive M&S appeared to usher in an era of glasnost with a more open approach to the City and the press.

Looking relaxed, Mr Salsbury said he was "delighted" with his elevation and pledged to modernise the company, which has become overly bureaucratic and centralised.

"I am really keyed up. This is a tremendous and exciting opportunity. Anyone who walks into a job like this and says they do not feel a sense of change would be lying."

Mr Salsbury said he would look at the size of the company's board, which with 21 members is seen as unwieldy. He also wants to streamline decision making and devolve responsibility.

Wallis springs shock £283m Marley bid

BY ANDREW VERITY

JOHN MANSFIELD GROUP, a timber merchant worth just £16.7m and chaired by former Fisons chief executive Stuart Wallis, yesterday launched a surprise £283m break-up bid for Marley, the struggling building materials group.

Mr Wallis, who intends to reduce Marley to a rump floor coverings business, was installed as chairman at Mansfield last year by Brian Myerson and Julian Treger after their company, UK Active Value, took a 65 per cent stake. Mr Myerson said yesterday he had been asked by institutions to adopt this unconventional approach.

In what amounts to a management buy-in, Mansfield is offering 15 new shares for every ordinary share in Marley together with a cash offer for Marley B shares at 11.7p, valuing the company at 97.5p a share. Phillips & Drew, the biggest shareholder in Marley with a 14.9 per cent stake, has already backed the deal.

Mr Wallis, who worked with Mr Myerson on the recent merger between Seton and Scholl, yesterday attacked the record of Marley, led by chief executive David Trapnell. "Over the last six or seven years the management has failed Marley's shareholders. This has been a ghastly story – if I had a track record like this I would be concerned."

Mansfield said shares in Marley had yielded a return of just 6.4 per cent a year since Mr Trapnell's appointment in December 1992, while the FT All Share index had returned 16.9 per cent.

Mr Wallis said Marley had made ill-judged purchases and criticised a six-month strategic review, which concluded in September that no change was needed. He also slammed a share option scheme for Mr Trapnell, launched last month, which halved his exercise price from 122p to 66p.

Alarm at Exxon's $240bn Mobil merger

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE PLANNED $240bn merger between Exxon and Mobil is facing huge regulatory hurdles that could even scupper any deal, analysts and oil industry observers said yesterday.

Exxon, the world's biggest energy group, and Mobil, America's second biggest oil company, are in advanced talks and could announce their tie-up – the largest industrial merger ever – as early as next week.

However, analysts cautioned that the regulatory problems were immense, both in the US and in Europe where Exxon, which trades as Esso, would have to unravel Mobil's existing joint venture in refining and marketing with BP-Amoco.

A merger would give Exxon a huge share of the European petrol and lubricants market. It is already number one in the UK, number two in Germany and number three in France and would almost certainly be forced to divest Mobil's 40 per cent stake in the BP venture.

Rival oil industry executives also said that a combination of Exxon and Mobil would face a daunting struggle to get by anti-trust authorities in the US because of its market domination in petrol retailing, particularly on the West Coast.

Analysts meanwhile questioned the rationale behind a merger and the benefits that Exxon, already the world's biggest oil company, could extract from swallowing Mobil.

Alan Marshall, oil analyst at Flemings, said: "I am not wildly impressed by the idea. This deal would face far more regulatory hurdles than BP-Amoco, which would eat into the logic of the merger.

"Exxon would have to pay a premium but the lack of value-creating opportunities and the forced divestments could wash away any benefits it did get from the deal."

He also pointed out that the deal would be classified as a takeover because of the disparity in size – Exxon is capitalised at $177bn while Mobil is worth $61bn – meaning that Exxon would face a goodwill write-off running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Analysts also doubted whether an Exxon-Mobil merger would yield the level of cost savings as BP-Amoco which is expected to produce efficiency gains of more than $3bn.

Some industry observers were speculating last night that the leaking of the Exxon-Mobil talks might have been a deliberate attempt to sabotage the merger. One observer said: "If this deal goes ahead, Mobil will disappear lock, stock and barrel, such is the dominance of the Exxon culture. That includes all Mobil's senior management. If there is someone in Mobil who does not like the idea then this is a perfect way of getting it out into the open so it can be strangled at birth."

Alternatively, the leak could have been a manoeuvre to boost Mobil's share price and hence strengthen its position when the split of shares in the enlarged company is decided.

Mobil shares are expected to rocket when New York opens today after the Thanksgiving holiday. Mobil stock rose by $3.375 to $78.375 on Wednesday as rumours of the Exxon merger began to circulate on Wall Street.

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AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES rallied yesterday, boosted by hopes of corporate activity and the increasing chance of an interest rate cut. The FTSE-100 index of leading shares closed up 72.6 points at 5827.9, putting an end to two days of losses. The second liners were less buoyant but still finished in positive territory. The medium cap ended 14.5 higher at 4,940.9, while the small cap rose 5.4 to 2,067.6.

A bearish economic forecast and a depressed manufacturing survey by the CBI fuelled hopes of an imminent rate cut.

HONG KONG

THE BLUE-CHIP Hang Seng index closed up 57.93 points at 10,778.92, with support coming through for HSBC, as banks benefited from rumours of mergers and acquisitions following news of the proposed tie-up between Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank, dealers said.

Some brokerages are again talking about HSBC's strength as a global bank, following n shift in sentiment over its exposure to Asia and Latin America. The property sector suffered some profit-taking after recent gains.

TOKYO

THE BENCHMARK Nikkei index rose to a three-month high closing up 134.30 points, or 0.9 per cent, at 15,207.77.

The IMF predicts Japan's economy will shrink almost 3 per cent this year and that it will not expand at all in 1999. The index closed above 15,000 for the third consecutive day, buoyed by strong buying by overseas investors keen not to miss a potential rally. Pulp and papermakers gained the most as investors looked for the next merger candidate.Drugmakers rose 1.4 per cent.

PARIS

THE PROSPECT of a mega-merger between US energy giants Exxon and Mobil boosted blue chips to levels last seen in August as the CAC 40 index rose 1.71 per cent to end at 3,915.53.

Total rose 5.5 per cent and Elf Aquitaine gained 4.71 per cent, while Esso soared 20.96 per cent, after a brief suspension. Analysts said the speculation, coming on the heels of n planned BP takeover of Amoco, had focussed attention on European oil companies which are under pressure to cut costs amid falling oil prices.

FRANKFURT

SHARES CLOSED higher as European stock markets, unable to take their lead from Wall Street (closed for Thanksgiving), forged ahead in an atmosphere of mega-merger euphoria. The Xetra DAX closed at 5,067.99, up 111.46; the DAX closed floor-trading 107.26 higher at 5,051.63.

"The mood is positive but volumes were extremely low so share prices could be turned around even by the smallest trade," one trader said.

BMW rose over 5.07 per cent on rumours of a special dividend.

Sir Richard Greenbury gets his Oates

OUTLOOK

SO, SIR Richard Greenbury got his way after all – sort of. The upstart pretender, Keith Oates, has been dispatched into exile, presumably with the by now customary barrow load of money, and the anointed successor, Peter Salsbury, confirmed in the role of chief executive.

Sir Richard has had to throw something to the mob, so it's been the executive bit of his continued role as chairman. Given his character, Sir Rick can none the less be expected to act very much as an executive non-executive for his remaining eighteen months.

The battle for the succession has been a messy affair – most un-Marks & Spencer-like – but perhaps too much has been read into it. A severe downturn in trading, combined with the launch of an overly ambitious expansion programme, gave Mr Oates the opportunity he needed to challenge Sir Rick's previously uncontested rule.

Marks & Spencer has lost its way, and Sir Rick his touch, Mr Oates was able to whisper, and he found a receptive ear among some non executives and City investors. But in truth the case was so far from being made that Mr Oates never really stood a chance. He played his hand and who can blame him, but Sir Rick was always going to have his way.

The turnround in perceptions about M&S has been a swift and to some extent unjustified one. It was little more than a year ago that on the back of bumper sales and profits the group launched an extraordinarily ambitious expansion programme – to grow the business by a third in just four years. This was always going to need a change of structure at the top, including a splitting of the role of chairman and chief executive.

But even with the downturn and the consequent reigning back of the store expansion programme, it was never apparent that M&S needed root and branch reform. To be forced to go outside for a chief executive would indeed have been an admission of failure.

That said, M&S as much as any company would benefit from a fresh perspective, and when Sir Rick comes finally to hang up his gun, his successor as non-executive chairman probably should come from outside the company.

Withholding tax

THE CORPORATION of London needs all the help it can get for its campaign against a European-wide withholding tax on investment income. Even so, it must be rather wishing it could cut loose from its growing band of Eurosceptic camp followers. They hardly do the cause much credit.

As an example of attempted tax harmonisation across Europe, the issue has been seized upon by those who want to see the single currency fail. And because the tax could be so disastrous for the City, it has to be admitted that it does provide a highly effective propaganda tool.

The difficulty arises because the Corporation's battle – and indeed the position of the City, the British Government and our captains of industry – can no longer be against the single currency as such. That fight was lost long ago. The euro is happening and as Lord Levene, Lord Mayor of London, told an Emu conference in the capital yesterday, it is in everyone's interests, including the City's, that it succeeds. The consequences of failure are too awful to contemplate, plunging Europe into a political and economic crisis more profound than anything seen since the war.

A successful euro, moreover, presents the City with unparalleled opportunities for growth and expansion. This is not to say that the City should deferentially be going along with everything proposed by Brussels, or, more alarmingly, with Oskar Lafontaine. The euro, it is true, is a cause for tax harmonisation, but the process, as in the United States, should through competition for capital, business and enterprise, be downwards towards the lowest common denominator, not upwards to the highest.

This is why the debate over withholding taxes is such an important one, and also why it would be wrong to think that Britain and the City has already lost it. If the euro is to succeed long term, it needs to be underpinned by the creation of deep and highly liquid capital markets. The City can provide these markets, but it cannot do so if hindered by the clutter of a withholding tax; capital would shift offshore, Euroland, the single currency, and indeed the City, would all be the poorer for it.

You might have thought the Germans and French would have taken this on board. They know only too well from their own experience about the capacity of withholding taxes to cause a flight of capital. Fortunately this is not yet a lost cause. There is every chance that the euro can still be moulded towards its original purpose of free market liberalism; most of the necessary safeguards remain in place.

In ensuring the future success of the euro, as well as its own, it is vital the City and the Government stay with the case.

Exxon/Mobil

IT IS THE season of mega-mergers and they do not come much bigger than the mooted $240bn marriage of Exxon and Mobil. This tidal wave of corporate activity is driving stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic back into record territory. That might seem odd when every indicator, at least on this side of the pond, points towards the possibility of recession next year.

The anti-trust authorities must also be looking askance at the sheer volume of bids and deals that are surfacing. As fast as the regulators crack down on cartel activity, big business finds a way to achieve the same end. If you cannot conspire with your competitors to keep prices up, then the next best thing is to take them over.

Fortunately, an Exxon-Mobil merger might have a hard time getting past even the sleepiest anti-trust buster. In order to be made palatable, it would require massive divestments in the US and Europe, where Exxon would be joined at the hip with BP-Amoco by virtue of its partnership with Mobil.

Added to this Exxon-Mobil also offers less scope for cost savings and value enhancements than BP-Amoco and would leave the partners with a massive goodwill write-off. The aim of leaking the talks was probably to make Exxon overpay. But it could just as easily kill the deal, in which case Royal Dutch Shell does not have to press the panic button just yet.

Sainsbury's pays £294m for Boston stores group

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

THE SAINSBURY'S store chain yesterday expanded its operations in the United States, paying £294m for Star Markets, New England's fifth-largest retailer.

Dino Adriano, chief executive, said Star Markets was "an excellent fit" with Shaw's, Sainsbury's existing New England supermarket chain and would enable the group to achieve bigger buying leverage with suppliers. Star operates 53 stores, 33 of which are in the greater Boston area, where Shaw's, for historical reasons, was poorly represented.

The seller is Investcorp, the Bahraini investment bank best known for its investments in glitzy businesses like Gucci and Saks Fifth Avenue, the New York department store.

Yesterday's deal underlines the British retailer's determination to expand its American operations in spite of resistance in the City to its US adventures.

Sainsbury's has set a target of $10bn (£6.25bn) of US sales within the next five to seven years. With this deal the group will have $3bn-$4bn of sales, putting it more than third of the way towards that goal. North America has been the graveyard of the global ambitions of several big UK retailers, including Laura Ashley, Body Shop, Tie Rack and Sock Shop.

However, with food retailers coming under increasing scrutiny from the competition authorities, opportunities to expand the business in the UK are dwindling. Sainsbury's has also been impressed at the way European rivals have forged ahead abroad, particularly Ahold, the Dutch chain, whose success at integrating a string of large US retail acquisitions has proved to investors that such a strategy can work in the retail sector. Sainsbury's shares fell 8p to 520p on the news.

Analysts said that since Investcorp bought Star Markets four years ago for $285m, it had modernised the stores, putting in new equipment and investing in building up the brand. Star was loss-making in the year to the end of January as a result of having to meet $50m a year of financing costs. However, the underlying business made profits of $47.3m on a turnover of $1bn last year.

Sainsbury's is paying $490m, of which $269m is in the form of Star's existing debt and the remainder cash to be met from the firm's existing resources. Mr Adriano said the move was "wholly in line" with the company's North American strategy. "We anticipate from year three onwards we will achieve approximately $40m of synergies from central services, purchasing, the optimisation of distribution systems and own-brand development."

Branson tries to block BA's CityFlyer deal

BY PHILLIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

RICHARD BRANSON, the billionaire owner of Virgin Atlantic, is heading for a fresh dogfight with British Airways, his arch-rival.

Mr Branson will today lodge a complaint to the competition authorities over the sale of CityFlyer Express to BA. He said the deal would give BA even more dominance at Gatwick, London's second major international airport, as well as controlling the majority of slots at London's biggest hub, Heathrow.

Mr Branson said his airline was approached about buying CityFlyer in the spring and was interested in doing a deal but failed to open talks despite numerous attempts. Mr Branson said he believed BA had an "anti-competitive, pre-emptive right" to CityFlyer which cut out rival offers.

He plans to complain to John Bridgeman, the director general of Fair Trading, at a meeting today. "I will ask him to act decisively," said Mr Branson.

Mr Branson said in a statement that HSBC, the banking group, approached Virgin in the spring to ask if it wanted to buy CityFlyer. "We said we would like to buy it but HSBC never came back to us with a price despite a number of calls."

BA yesterday announced it had agreed to buy CityFlyer, which is one of its franchise operators, for £75m. BA bought the franchisee airline, which operates out of Gatwick, from institutional investors led by venture capital company 3i Group.

"We can only assume that BA has some kind of secret, anti-competitive pre-emption right in their franchise agreement with CityFlyer, and that we were being used as a stalking-horse," said Mr Branson.

Bob Ayling, BA chief executive, said the purchase was "good news for customers, employees and for Gatwick".

Mr Branson yesterday announced plans to recruit 1,500 staff at Virgin Atlantic and its sister companies between now and spring 2000.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Marston rejects £262m Wolves bid

By Peter Thal Larsen

A TAKEOVER battle broke out in the brewing industry yesterday as Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries launched a £262m hostile offer for Marston, Thompson & Evershed, its West Midlands rival.

The bid, which Marston immediately rejected as unwelcome, comes after several unsuccessful attempts by Wolverhampton to agree a friendly merger between the two companies.

The move is a last-ditch attempt to stop Marston from selling most of its tenanted pub estate to Nomura, the Japanese bank, in a deal which would see £60m returned to shareholders. Last night, Marston – best known for brewing Pedigree bitter and its Pitcher & Piano pub chain – said it was considering returning even more cash to shareholders.

David Thompson, Wolverhampton's chief executive, said: "They are selling their best-performing asset and investing in that part of the business where returns are falling."

Marston shareholders will vote on the disposal on 9 December. Yesterday, Wolverhampton warned that its bid would only go ahead if the Nomura deal was rejected.

Advisers to Marston said Wolverhampton was trying to bully shareholders into accepting its bid. "How can you have a proper debate about this in such a short time?" one said. "Shareholders are being bounced and it should not be allowed."

News of the bid sent shares in Marston soaring 41p to 287.5p – just ahead of the 283.3p being offered by Wolverhampton. Since speculation started over Wolverhampton's interest, Marston shares have risen by 67 per cent.

Industry experts doubted whether the offer would be enough.

"Wolverhampton will have to increase their offer. Their case is not terribly strong," one leading analyst said, adding that a 320p offer would be more reasonable. Marston pointed out that its net assets are currently worth 343p per share.

However, experts questioned Wolverhampton's ability to raise its bid much further. The company, which is offering 182p in cash and 0.235 new Wolverhampton shares for each Marston share, will already be financially stretched by the deal with balance sheet gearing rising to 85 per cent.

One possibility would be for Wolverhampton to offload the Pitcher & Piano chain of pubs. Mr Thompson yesterday questioned the chain's identity and Marston's decision to expand it at a time when other chains were cutting back on investment in high street pubs.

Mr Thompson said the geographical fit between Wolverhampton and Marston was compelling. "We believe the long-term consolidation of the brewing industry is sensible," he said, adding that the company had identified £12m of cost savings if the two companies were merged.

These include closing one of the two head offices, combining distribution and sales forces, and merging computer systems – a move that would lead to the loss of at least 250 jobs. However, Wolverhampton stressed that Marston's brewery in Burton would be kept open.

Wolverhampton said it had tried to agree a friendly merger with Marston. But the most recent round of talks broke down on 16 November.

"We were willing to make concessions on the head office and the chairmanship, but they were not interested," Mr Thompson said.

Cartel investigators at the Office of Fair Trading yesterday: Front row (left to right), Alan Conroy, Adrian Walker-Smith, Nick Wilkins; back row (left to right), Nadeem Akhtar, Ed Lennon

Noddy star to head cartel squad at OFT

By Michael Harrison

A FORMER child actor who starred as the leader of the red goblins in the film *Noddy in Toyland* has been appointed Britain's first cartel buster-in-chief.

Adrian Walker-Smith, who gave up the stage and screen at 18 for a career in business, will be in charge of a £3m budget and a 16-strong cartel squad at the Office of Fair Trading.

From March 2000, the squad will have the power to enter company premises, seize documents and interview staff when it suspects a cartel is in operation. Company directors who refuse to cooperate face unlimited fines and imprisonment. If found guilty of operating a cartel, firms can be fined up to 10 per cent of turnover.

Mr Walker-Smith said his one sadness was that he would not be able to go on dawn raids himself. "It is part of the system of checks and balances. I need to preserve a degree of impartiality," he said.

John Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading, said there was "significant cartel activity" in Britain.

Armed with new powers of investigation under the Competition Act, which became law earlier this month, he said the OFT would be able to root out and destroy cartels "in weeks or months rather than years".

Mr Walker-Smith, 51, joined the OFT in 1987 from *Readers Digest*, where he was a customer relations manager. He said he was attracted by an advertisement which read: "Join the OFT and hunt down cartels." He has recently returned from secondment in Hong Kong where he was advising the Chinese authorities on competition law.

Married with three children, he lists his hobbies as food, walking and the study of "empowerment".

His squad will be drawn both from within the OFT and outside. They will be expected to have a background already in law, economics or competition policy and will be given special training in how to use their new investigation powers.

Mr Bridgeman would not be drawn on whether the OFT had a "hit list" of cartels it was waiting to break up once its new powers came into effect. He also tried to assuage fears among some businesses about the extent of its powers by saying that only companies which were breaking the law had anything to fear. The vast majority of firms would benefit from the tough new competition regime.

IN BRIEF

Scotia plummets

SHARES IN Scotia Holdings fell near their all-time low yesterday after a German pharmaceutical giant dropped the biotech company's star cancer drug. The collapse of the deal with Boehringer Ingelheim, which was agreed last September, will cost Scotia around £13m in lost payments and is set to delay the submission of the treatment for head and neck tumours to the US medical authorities. Scotia shares, which peaked at 800p two years ago, fell over 24 per cent to close at 89p.

ICL wins PFI deal

ICL, the computer services group, has won the first contract to connect schools to the internet as part of the Government's National Grid for Learning. The £12.5m contract with Moray Council in Scotland will be announced today by Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland. The deal will provide 1,000 computer terminals to the council's 58 schools. Every schoolchild will be supplied with an email address.

Home loans fall

GROSS MORTGAGE lending by major banks fell slightly in October to £4.922bn from September's £5.107bn, the British Bankers' Association said yesterday. Tim Sweeney, the BBA's director-general, said the number of new loans for house purchase approved was higher in October than in the previous couple of months, although the average value had fallen for the third month running.

BOC's £112m sale

BOC is to sell German and Benelux gas assets to Air Liquide, the world's biggest gas maker, for £112m. BOC, the world's second largest industrial gases producer, said on Monday it was in talks to sell the units as part of its reorganisation to boost profits. Shares in BOC rose 16p to 900p.

Sir Richard Greenbury: Steps back to non-executive chairman in February. Retires in 2000 but the succession has gone his way

Keith Oates: 'Resigns' from January, but has, in effect, gone already. Paid the price for going against Sir Richard Greenbury

Brian Baldock: Non-executive director who made a late play to become non-executive deputy chairman. The City prefers an outsider

Michael Perry: Non-executive director and former Unilever chairman. Has also made a pitch for the deputy chairmanship

Lord Stone: Ruled himself out of the succession battle, although he had some supporters.

M&S boardroom regains its calm

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

News Analysis: The succession battle may be over, but the retailer still has a tough job ahead

AFTER THE storm that has surrounded Marks & Spencer over the past few weeks, there was a strange sense of calm yesterday. Finally, after nearly a month of gossip, leaks and high-octane power play, Britain's biggest retailer had decided who should take the company into the next millennium.

Peter Salsbury is the new baron of Baker Street. Keith Oates has been forced to walk the plank after his high-profile, high-risk, bid for the top job ended in failure.

In the end the battle was not even close. The board voted unanimously for Mr Salsbury and the defeated Mr Oates left immediately. Although M&S directors have no service contracts he can look forward to a generous pay-off based on his total pay of £646,000 last year.

After the marathon two-and-a-half hour board meeting finished on Wednesday at 5.30pm, the M&S top brass did what they do best. They carried on regardless. They began preparing for the annual dinner for former directors, which takes place at the head office after every November board meeting.

Sir Richard attended, even missing his beloved Manchester United take on Barcelona in the Champion's League. But, canny operator that he is, he videoed the game to watch later and instructed guests not to tell him the score.

But by yesterday morning there was a palpable air of change. The company, famed for its stuffy, inward-looking approach to public relations, had hired a top City PR firm to handle the announcement. Mr Salsbury was available for interviews, the kind of access that is almost unheard of at M&S where the directors rarely appear outside of twice yearly results meetings.

There was more than a hint of "glasnost". After washing its dirty linen in public for nearly a month, the company recognised that it could not realistically pretend that nothing has happened. As one rival retailer put it: "They have thrown away two generations of goodwill. It will take a long time to win it back."

That is a harsh assessment as M&S remains hugely popular with shoppers. Its halo has certainly slipped, underlined by its slip from third position to 11th in the new *Management Today* "Most Admired Company" awards, won by Tesco. But M&S remains a benchmark for quality.

Even so, two key questions emerge from the wreckage of this corporate embarrassment. What kind of manager is Peter Salsbury? And what kind of changes will he make to kick-start the spluttering M&S machine?

First, the man. Mr Salsbury was educated at the London School of Economics before joining M&S as a trainee in 1960. A former rugby player at school, he supports Arsenal football club and is married for the second time.

There are similarities with Sir Richard Greenbury, his combative chairman. Both are single company men who have worked at M&S for their entire working lives. They are imbued in the M&S culture of discipline, honesty and the logic that there is "an M&S way of doing things".

But as personalities they appear very different. Sir Richard is a prickly, somewhat curmudgeonly character with the temper of a wounded rhino. Mr Salsbury is more of an amiable bear of a man. With his florid face and genial expression, he has an avuncular air. In management terms he is described as an inclusive "team builder". As one analyst says: "He is spoken of very highly inside Baker Street. He is respected and I think his appointment will be a very popular choice."

In the City there are concerns that as non-executive director Sir Richard will interfere; that he is incapable of taking a "hands-off" approach. But Sir Richard was described as being "as happy as Larry" with the changes.

He said yesterday: "When the roles of chairman and chief executive are split, I believe it is essential that the chairman and chief executive like each other – we do; that they have complementary skills – we do; That they have different characters and personalities – I am more instinctive and outward going, while Peter is intellectual and quiet... But we both have a common interest. We love the business. We want it to do well."

But retail experts say Mr Salsbury will have to introduce changes at M&S if it is to re-capture past glories after its recent stumble which saw profits fall by 23 per cent.

Mr Salsbury recognised as much yesterday: "The company is expanding [by adding a third as much floor space over the next few years] – that is a fact. That change will bring the need for other changes. We have a different [management] structure at the top. We need to look at working practices, to modernise them and become more flexible."

Mr Salsbury wants to reduce the group's bureaucracy and devolve decision making. "We need a slightly lighter touch," he said. The 21-strong board will be examined to see if it needs to be trimmed, and more emphasis will be placed on product presentation and marketing.

The company will also become more open in its dealing with the outside world. "What we are signalling is that it is good for the business to communicate well. We need to explain, not just to our customers, but to other stakeholders. Perhaps, after what has happened, we will be able to be more open," he said.

There may be other changes too. There was criticism yesterday that the company has appointed no new blood. But that may be addressed and a new non-executive deputy chairman may yet be appointed. The supply base will probably be re-examined and M&S may begin to source more goods from cheaper overseas markets, as painful as that will be for UK manufacturers.

But it will all take time. As Mr Salsbury says: "We need strategy first and structure second. We have a strategic review under way that should be completed next year. This is not all going to happen in a day."

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Bruckhampton Hldgs. (I)	14.3m (14.08m)	4.28m (4.18m)	6.5p (6.3p)	1.7p (1.6p)	15.01.99	14.12.98
BPB (I)	647.3m (657.8m)	68.6m (69.0m)	8.5p (11.5p)	4.0p (3.8p)	08.04.99	07.12.98
Caledonia Investments (I)	28.0m (25.6m)	31.2m (22.4m)	15.5p *(17.9p)	7.0p (6.5p)	14.01.99	07.12.98
Cassino (I)	8.7m (5.89m)	1.27m (0.820m)	7.24p (5.30p)	1.25p (nil)	28.01.99	07.12.98
DRS Management (I)	77.5m (72.57m)	4.2m (8.478m)	6.3p (8.6p)	1.65p (1.4p)	19.01.99	tba
Diploma (F)	282.9m (257.5m)	13.0m (21.9m)	11.1p (24.9p)	14.5p (14.5p)	12.01.99	14.12.98
Foley,Smith & Turner (I)	61.44m (55.58m)	6.53m (5.066m)	17.08p (16.73p)	3.82p (3.60p)	15.01.99	14.12.98
Premier Group (I)**	220.2m (187.1m)	71.5m (98.8m)	50.9p (-30.8p)	14.7p (13.2p)	08.04.99	07.12.98
Purplebrief (F)	1.48m (1.28m)	72.8m (59.56m)	176.74p (148.36p)	75.0p (62.0p)	12.01.99	07.12.98
William Ransomes Sec (I)	4.35m (4.71m)	0.330m (0.913m)	1.49p (11.86p)	0.89p (0.89p)	13.01.99	14.12.98
Sedgwick (I)	38.41m (38.86m)	4.15m (7.17m)	*1.7p (2.3p)	0.5p (0.5p)	06.01.99	07.12.98
Sylmar (I)	12.28m (11.82m)	2.73m (2.08m)	5.54p (5.14p)	2.25p (2.10p)	04.02.99	11.01.99
Symonds (I)	23.82m (22.80m)	2.22m (-0.884m)	2.2p (-0.8p)	0.6p (0.6p)	18.01.99	07.12.98
[illegible] (I)	[illegible]	84.6m (74.9m)	11.3p (10.1p)	4.3p (3.8p)	28.01.99	07.12.98
[illegible] (I)	[illegible]	-0.861m (-0.250m)	-5.80p (-2.2[illegible])	– (*)	–	–
[illegible]	165.87m (160.[illegible])	8.94m (17.1m)	4.74p (11.74p)	0.0p (4.7p)	07.04.99	01.10.98
Waterlooplc (Chelsey) (F)	285.7m (275.6m)	45.0m (-)	51.0p (46.0p)	13.31p (-)	29.01.99	14.12.98
Yorkshire Water (I)	340.4m (322.5m)	110.0m (115.7m)	36.2p (*28.5p)	8.75p (8.15p)	tba	tba
York Waterworks (I)	8.87m (4.81m)	1.59m (1.84m)	17.3p (21.1p)	4.95p (4.55p)	18.01.99	29.12.98

(F) - final (I) - interim *adjusted eps ** after exceptionals †pre-exceptional

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 1.27?%							
684	385	Allied Domecq	517.0	x-8.0	4.9	19.2	1800
410	292	Bulmer(H P)	355.0	0.0	5.3	18.2	1130
50	7	BurnStew Dist	17.3	x 1.0	-	-	4652
785	478	Diageo	690.0	x13.0	3.4	19.7	
980	686	Glenmorangie	687.5	0.0	2.8	15.8	2799
335	225	HghlndDistilleries	256.5	2.0	4.6	11.1	1259
243	115	Matthew Clark	241.0	0.0	6.7	8.4	1158
BANKS 0.459%							
1372	872	Abbey Natl	1271.0	-16.0	3.2	78.0	2121
1007	513	AIB	914.5	5.0	0.0	21.7	
1001	700	Alliance Leic	912.0	8.0	3.1	20.4	2233
1890	824	Barclays	7489.0	38.0	3.3	20.0	1004
1338	788	Bk of Ireland	1245.0	x11.0	0.0	20.0	
888	440	Bk of Scotl	671.5	x-8.5	1.9	19.5	3858
982	871	Halifax	845.0	-71.0	3.6	19.4	3333
2073	879	HSBC (75P)	1704.0	71.5	0.0	13.6	5838
1963	950	HSBC (HK$10)	7599.0	10.0	4.1	12.1	5828
645	530	Leopold J	597.5	0.0	4.0	20.6	2380
1118	557	Lloyds TSB Gp	857.5	3.3	2.7	78.0	6385
1244	894	Natwest Bk	7137.0	5.0	3.7	35.0	1882
723	464	Northern Rock	583.0	10.9	2.3	21.0	
70	43	Rea Bros	44.0	0.0	3.0	5.8	3666
1131	681	Ryl Bk Scot	870.0	36.0	2.9	11.5	3216
7044	357	Stanchartd	825.0	3.8	2.5	12.1	7441
403	355	Wintrust	390.0	0.0	4.0	14.6	3589
388	288	Woolwich	374.0	-1.0	3.3	24.0	3377
BREWERIES PUBS & REST 3.815%							
1176	631	Bass	858.0	88.0	4.2	26.9	7808
12	3	Belgo Gp	8.0	0.0	..	133.3	
258	155	Belhaven	188.5	7.5	4.1	10.4	
185	127	Burtonwood	158.5	1.5	0.0	11.4	1159
152	58	Century Inns	111.0	3.5	14.4	7.5	
163	01	City Ctr Res	68.0	3.5	5.7	10.2	1184
782	343	Compass	630.8	1.5	5.0	40.9	4853
343	125	Eldridge P	166.5	0.5	4.8	7.6	4370
385	221	Enterprise Inns	341.5	x 4.5	3.1	15.0	4777
553	435	Flr Smith&Tnr	477.5	7.5	3.0	15.2	2163
538	334	Greenalls Gp	358.5	12.8	0.0	9.4	1238
780	508	Greene King	535.0	12.5	4.7	9.3	1140
358	168	Chez Gerard	217.5	x-2.5	2.1	14.2	1610
282	204	Hardys & H	226.0	0.0	6.5	9.8	1248
2175	1525	Holt (J)	1610.0	0.0	5.2	7.5	2305

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
83	57	Beechwood	63.0	-1.5	4.3	9.1	
136	97	Gowrings	106.0	0.0	4.2	10.2	
405	162	Headlam Gp	228.5	0.0	4.0	11.0	2279
81	12	HR Owen	14.8	0.5	7.8	9.8	
165	105	Holders Tech	165.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	
663	175	Ideal Hardware	245.0	x 0.0	1.0	0.7	6009
214	48	Inn Gp	82.0	x-10.5	10.1	4.1	1787
234	58	Inchcape	128.0	2.0	8.4	65.3	7523
129	40	ISA Intl	40.5	0.0	10.2	4.0	5447
584	319	Kwik-Fit	556.5	4.0	1.6	24.7	1287
614	330	Lex Service	396.0	-1.0	5.8	10.5	1302
338	125	Ultra Supplies	129.5	0.0	8.9	0.0	6516
123	62	Lookers	89.5	0.0	12.4	-	
575	351	Menzies J	405.0	0.0	4.7	-	1334
0	1	Middlesex	1.5	x 0.0	-	-	1870
327	172	Morbaix	210.0	0.0	5.6	7.6	2885
391	180	Nortember	189.0	x 1.0	2.9	10.4	2694
342	145	Parton Gp	167.5	x-6.0	6.8	7.9	1220
313	128	Pendragon	145.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	5907
255	131	Perry	129.5	x 0.0	9.2	5.1	2757
443	165	Premier Farnell	165.0	x 0.0	7.6	7.3	1209
165	83	Quicks Gp	66.5	0.0	15.0	4.6	
785	75	REA Hldgs	75.0	0.0	8.3	15.6	
3	1	Reece	2.5	x 0.0	-	-	
39	22	Ring	31.0	x 0.0	6.5	10.0	
5	1	Ronson	1.4	x 0.0	-	-	
5	3	Ross Gp	3.0	x 0.0	-	13.0	
113	60	Ryland Gp	75.5	0.0	7.5	4.0	6103
33	7	Saltire	10.0	x 0.5	-	-	
290	133	Sanderson Bml	137.5	-3.0	5.3	6.7	2892
32	11	SEP Intl	14.8	0.3	11.0	7.4	
69	25	Sedgemoor	33.0	-2.5	8.0	9.4	
274	127	Syltone	130.0	0.5	2.5	4.6	
222	69	Time Prod	66.5	0.0	19.3	3.2	
678	495	Tibbet	505.0	0.5	2.9	14.8	1216
440	288	UNECO	348.0	0.0	3.5	15.6	2089
124	79	Utd O'seas Gp	19.8	0.0	7.0	2.8	2024
300	168	Vardy (Reg)	178.5	0.0	0.5	7.4	4677
840	637	WF Elect	795.0	0.0	2.0	18.0	3369
193	84	Wyko	70.5	-1.0	6.2	0.5	
166	58	Young (H)	98.5	0.0	0.1	6.8	
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS 1.631%							
375	160	Antofagasta	161.5	x-6.0	3.9	1.7	8435
10	15	Carlisle Hldgs	18.8	1.0		-	4370

MAIN MOVERS

RISES

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Marston Thom	287.50	41.00	16.66
Marley	98.50	13.00	15.20
Abbot Mead	408.50	48.00	13.50
Pervair	161.00	16.00	11.00
Smith (David)	121.50	12.00	11.00
MSB Intl	202.50	20.00	11.00
Macdonald	166.00	15.50	10.78
31 Group	596.00	57.00	10.75
Whitecroft	81.50	4.50	7.33
Atlantic Tel	144.50	10.00	7.24

FALLS

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Scotia	89.00	-28.50	-24.30
Berry	191.50	-43.00	-18.58
BPB	217.00	-42.00	-16.20
DBS Mngmt	132.50	-18.00	-12.60
Transtec	33.50	-4.00	-10.78
Westminster	245.00	-27.50	-10.19
Stagecoach	225.00	-17.50	-7.22
Spring RAM	8.50	-5.00	-7.14
Sedgemoor	33.00	-2.50	-7.04
Cortecs	27.00	-2.00	-6.90

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
Shell Transp-Reg	38.00m	Pac Media	8.35m	Brit Telecom	9.00m	Marley	8.46m
Brit Steel	20.15m	Royal & Sun All	10.9m	Scottish Power	8.57m	Smithkline Beech	8.28m
Marks & Spencer	16.78m	Asda	9.91m	Unilever	8.92m		
Brit Petroleum	16.01m	Signet	9.82m	Brit Airways	8.76m		
BTR	12.38m	Tesco	9.40m	Slebe	8.72m		
Rentokil	12.27m	FKI	9.16m	Lasmo	8.47m		

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5755.3		11:00	5807.4	Up 52.1	15:00	5820.8	Up 65.5
9:00	5755.3	Up 0.0	12:00	5819.8	Up 64.5	16:00	5838.2	Up 82.9
10:00	5781.6	Up 26.3	13:00	5828.9	Up 73.6	Close	5827.9	Up 72.6
			14:00	5823.5	Up 68.2			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
99	72	Govt HI Inc	91.5	0.0	1.7	-	2138
499	318	Govt Strtg	371.0	4.5	2.7	-	1712
54	41	Gp Tst	41.5	0.2	5.5	-	3679
148	108	GT Inc Gth	181.0	6.3	3.5	-	5586
112	70	H Sam UK Eq	72.0	0.0	0.5	-	5560
374	281	Hend Elec & Gen	327.0	3.0	1.5	-	6638
182	141	Hend HI Inc	163.5	9.8	5.2	-	6622
42	25	Hend Jap SmCo	32.5	0.5	-	-	4582
300	186	Hend SmlCo	224.0	2.8	2.2	-	
70	37	Hend TR Pacific	56.0	0.0	0.0	-	1931
533	380	Hen Strats	469.0	1.5	0.1	-	3013
204	121	Herald Inc Tst	163.0	0.0	0.7	-	1465

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
176	117	Undrwld Assts	133.5	0.0	2.2	-	2244
270	184	US Smlr Cos	236.5	x 1.0	-	-	3800
167	105	Value & Income	126.0	x 0.0	4.9	-	3000
135	99	Value Realisatn	132.0	1.0	7.7	-	
59	34	WarrantsRVlt	48.0	0.0		-	6710
402	280	Witan Inv	352.5	8.5	2.5	-	3280
610	335	Yeoman Cap	474.5	0.0		-	3652
LEISURE & HOTELS 0.8..%							
544	333	Airtours	419.0	-0.5	3.7	17.8	5757
34	20	Allied Leis	29.9	x 0.0	4.8	5.0	6558

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
55	18	Prestbet	21.0	0.0	4.8	5.0	
780	220	PSD	392.5	2.5	x0	11.0	1846
608	210	Quality Shows	407.0	x-2.0	..	39.2	6769
158	78	Quantica	76.5	0.0		-	3368
193	92	Read Exec	91.5	-6.0	4.5	4.9	6478
208	123	Reliance Sec	157.5	7.5	0.0	10.2	5892
461	238	Rentokil Gp	365.0	12.5	1.0	38.4	7778
232	148	Ricardo Grp	203.0	x 0.0	4.1	17.5	2849
418	158	RM	385.5	0.5	0.0	48.3	3807
519	208	Rolfe O N	210.0	x-2.0	1.6	-	1401
355	198	RPS Gp	350.0	0.0	1.9	28.7	6371
1805	756	Sage	1362.5	22.5	0.3	58.2	6801
165	62	Sanderson B	140.5	4.5	4.4	31.6	7600
1069	320	Select Appts	638.0	x 1.5	-	37.4	5695
628	324	Serco Gp	494.0	10.0	0.0	41.8	1614
1448	758	Serco Gp	1030.0	22.5	0.0	43.1	7502
207	148	Steele McE	196.5	0.0	2.8	22.1	7210

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
205	65	World Telecom	65.0	0.0	-	-	
489	159	Zergo	240.0	2.5			

RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Ambient Media	46.5	0.0
Coca-Cola Beverages	177.5	-4.5
Estates Prop	153.5	0.0
ICC Computers	72.5	0.0
JWE Telecom	149.5	3.0
Quantica	76.5	0.0
Salestom	47.5	0.0

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com/uk

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: r Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; x Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid; Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Source: Bloomberg

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Bid rumours bring Shell back to life

MARKET REPORT

FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHELL YESTERDAY was resurrected from its recent slump as a rush of bid rumours, like waves round an oil platform, engulfed the fallen giant. Bruised and battered by the collapse in crude and a set of catastrophic results, the Anglo-Dutch behemoth had been a familiar presence on dealers' selling lists for some time. But there were no hard feelings yesterday as the market seized on the news of a $238bn mega merger between Exxon and Mobil to prop up Shell's price. With BP already engaged to Amoco, Shell stood out as one of the few attractive singles in the oil world. The fact that there are very few companies suitable for a marriage with Shell did little to dent the buying spree and the shares ended up 4 per cent at 367.5p. BP chipped in with a slick performance and finished 23.5p higher at 956.5p.

The two oil groups account for more than 8 per cent of FTSE and the main index drew on their strength to put together a nice little rally. With Wall Street closed for Thanksgiving, the blue chips were also helped by domestic takeover activity and rising hopes of a rate cut after a bearish CBI survey. The result was a 72.6 point gain to 5,827.9, well above the 5,800 barrier. The undercard was more subdued with the midcap rising 14.5 to 4,940 and the small cap firming a meagre 5.4 points to 2,067.

M&S, down 24.5p to 421p, was the day's main casualty, as the market reacted badly to the retailer's "afternoon of the long knives". One broker said that the new chief executive, Peter Salsbury, was an "unknown quantity" in the market and his appointment would not shift the company's strategy. Marks & Sparks was denied the Footsie's wooden spoon by a bizarre trade in Stagecoach. One minute before the market close, 8 orders for exactly 728 shares at 225p went through. The roguish deal pushed the price, which had been hovering around 233p until then, down more than 7 per cent on the day.

Sainsbury offloaded 13p to 515p on jitters about its £294m buy of US supermarket Star Markets, while Orange lost 24p to 608p after HSBC said "reduce".

3i, the venture capitalist, topped the blue-chip board with a 57p rise to 590p. A raft of brokers, led by CSFB, upgraded their stance after a good set of results. British Airways, up 18.25p to 425.25p, was also a high-flyer after buying the regional carrier CityFlyer for £75m.

Brewers were another sector in demand. The market's thirst for beer stocks was triggered by the arrival of the long-awaited £262m bid by Wolverhampton & Dudley for Marston Thompson & Evershed. The offer of 283p per share prompted a 41p rise in Marston share price to 287.5p, a hint that the market thinks Wolverhampton, down 5p to 425p, will have to increase its offer to win the day.

The ale battle focused traders' minds on the oversold booze index. Bass, the casualty of a recent profit warning, was the main beneficiary. The shares rose a smooth 60p to 850p, the second biggest riser among the leaders, as the market awaits next week's results. Whitbread kept its head and moved up 35p to 825p and Scottish & Newcastle was also up 18p to 743p. Greenalls, 15p higher at 356.5p, and Greene King up 14.5p to 535p, kept the regional brewers' flying high.

Dealers have been speculating about a bid for Marley, the building materials group, for a long time and yesterday it finally arrived. The surprise was the name of the £283m suitor. John Mansfield, a small timber merchant, led by Stuart Wallis. Marley rejected the reverse takeover approach, but Mr Wallis's interest was enough to push the shares up 15.2 per cent to 98.5p. Mansfield lost 0.25p to 6.25p.

Plasterboard producer BPB lost 16 per cent to 217p after news of a EU anti-competition probe and dull interims.

Fellow building stock Birse engineered a 20.5 per cent climb to 11.75p, as a stock overhang for Gartmore cleared and rumours of a big contract win circulated.

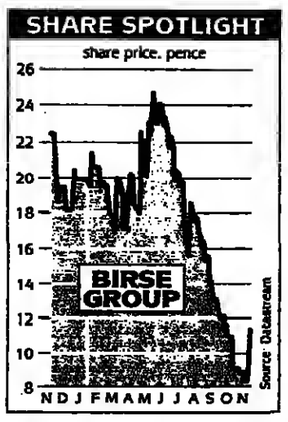
BCH, the last independent car leasing company, motored 49p ahead to 218.5p, after receiving a bid approach. The mystery stalker is believed to be a financial group keen to get its hands on BCH's car pool.

Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency which gave us the Yellow Pages ad, soared 48.5p to 408.5p, after being approached by the US ad major Omnicom. The bid should be pitched at between 425p and 450p. Chime Communications, up 6.25p to 50.25p, Saatchi, 9p higher at 134p and Character Group, up 14p at 330.5p, all felt sympathetic. The corporate frenzy was rounded up by David Smith. The paper and packaging group delivered a 12p advance to 121.5p after saying it wants to sell its office products business.

Devro, the food producer, left a bad taste in investors' mouths with a sour profit warning. The stock plummeted a hefty 18.5 per cent to an all-time low of 191.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 863.7m
SEAQ TRADES: 61,614
GILT INDEX: 113.55 +0.97

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED, the former Hambro Countrywide, rose 2.5p to 114.5p in unusually heavy trading. The real estate agency and life assurance group saw some 46m shares traded. The culprit was a large shareholder's decision to sell a 5.7 per cent stake. The seller, tipped to be Guardian Royal Exchange, put some 22m shares on the market at lunchtime. The line was snapped up by two other large insitutions, dealers said.

DRAGON OIL rose 2p to 20.5p after a company headed by the deputy ruler of Dubai, Hamdan Al Maktoum, bought a 46 per cent stake for £24m. The holding had been on sale since May when the Indonesian businessman Arifin Panigoro said he wanted to exit the company. Mr Maktoum will nominate four of the nine directors of Dragon. Graeme Thomson, chief executive and Grant Bowler, finance director, are set to remain at the helm.

Investment: Building materials industry under investigation by European Union

BPB shares plummet on probe

BY SIMON DUKE

SHARES IN BPB, the buildings material company, plummeted by 18 per cent to 215p yesterday after the company said that it was being investigated by the European Union over alleged breaches in European anti-competition laws, and that trading conditions were becoming increasingly difficult.

In a statement, BPB confirmed that "officials from the commission of the European communities had visited various BPB offices on Wednesday as part of a pan-European investigation into alleged infringements of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome within the European plasterboard business".

BPB is the dominant player in the European plasterboard market, with more than 50 per cent of market share. Its two main competitors, Lafarge and Knauf, share 45 per cent, with the remaining 5 per cent controlled by small regional players.

The investigation, coming only six weeks after BPB announced the acquisition of the Scandinavian company Gyproc, has inevitably led to speculation that the main focus of the investigation will be allegations concerning anti-competitive practices in the Scandinavian market.

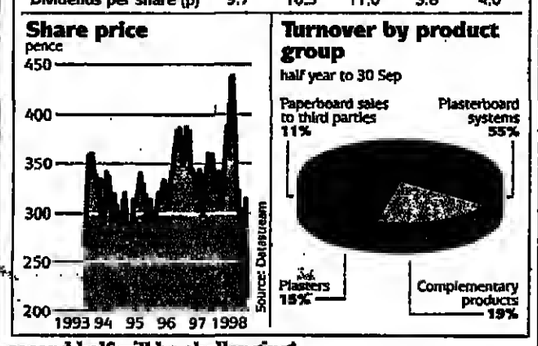
Another suggestion is that tight pricing in the German market had given rise to the investigation. Over the past two years plasterboard prices have fallen by up to 20 per cent in Germany, partly due to decreased demand from East Germany, as well as alleged price-cutting by Polish-based Norgips.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive of BPB: 'Trading conditions in the second half will be challenging'

BPB: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.11bn, share price 215p (-44p)

Trading record	1996	1997	1998	1997 (6 months to 30 Sep)	1998 (6 months to 30 Sep)
Pre-tax profits (£m)	161.0	189.0	135.0	89.0	68.6
Dividends per share (p)	9.7	10.3	11.0	3.8	4.0



Analysts said that the EU announcement was the main impetus behind the sharp fall in the share price. Half-year pre-tax profit before exceptionals rose by 1 per cent to £90m, and dividend per share increased by 5 per cent, both of which were in line with expectations.

Commenting on the outlook for the next six months, chief executive Jean-Pierre Cuny said that "with uncertainties continuing to surround the impact of a possible global economic slowdown, trading conditions in the second half will be challenging; the overall trend of trading now suggesting slower growth for the remainder of the year."

The prolonged strength of sterling, Mr Cuny said, had cost the company up to £3m in pretax profit, which after a £20m loss due to the disposal of the Radcliffe papermill, saw profits drop 23 per cent to £69m.

Analysts think that it is too early to ascertain what the long-term effect of the investigation will be on the industry, particularly as the EU has not yet commented on the reasons behind the inquiry.

Mike Betts, of Goldman Sachs, said the EU investigation would cast a shadow over the industry for quite some time. Commenting on the EU investigation into the cement industry between 1991 and 1994, Mr Betts said "it took three years between the launch and conclusion of the investigation, and there is a risk that this investigation will impinge upon BPB share price performance for the foreseeable future".

The announcement of the imminent buy-back of up to 10 per cent of the company's shares was greeted with enthusiasm, with most analysts agreeing that it will greatly improve the strength of BPB's balance sheet – a criticism frequently levelled at the company.

According to Mr Betts, "a buy back of 10 per cent, given that the share price is so weak, will add 7 per cent to earnings and raise the debt to equity ratio to 50 per cent".

One analyst said that the weak trading conditions had more than been compensated for by today's fall in share price, but that the share "was definitely not one for the faint-hearted". While speculation still surrounds the exact nature of the EU investigation, he said that there was little prospect of a bounce in share prices in the immediate future.

Water firms pledge to retain dividends

BY ANDREW VERITY

WATER COMPANIES yesterday set out plans to maintain their dividends in the face of swingeing cuts in water bills demanded by the industry regulator, Ofwat.

Both Pennon Group and Yorkshire Water said they expected to avoid cutting dividends in the face of Ofwat's proposals last month for water bills to be cut by 15 to 20 per cent from 2000.

The proposals, which are under consultation, are part of the periodic review of water company regulation by Ofwat unveiled last month. Final proposals will be published next July.

Pennon Group, formerly South West Water, said it would fight the effect of the cuts by stepping up activity in non-regulated businesses such as its Viridor waste management subsidiary. It said it was planning to maintain dividend growth of 8 per cent in real terms.

Ken Harvey, chairman of Pennon, said: "The review is going to hit turnover and profits of our regulated businesses. Our strategy will be to improve operating costs and to prepare for the review.

"The key to our growth will be the development of Viridor. In waste management, the margins are there."

He said non-regulated business should make up half of group turnover within three years.

Half-year profits were up 5 per cent to £71.5m and the interim dividend rose 11.4 per cent to 14.7p. The company also cut costs by 6 per cent in real terms at its main water business.

Operating profits at Viridor jumped by 63 per cent, excluding exceptionals, following the purchase in December 1997 of Terry Adams, a landfill operator. The company has bought three new landfill sites in the last three months and is planning further purchases.

The group said it would challenge Ian Byatt, the head of Ofwat, over the proposed price cuts.

"We will have a vigorous debate with Mr Byatt. You should not take it that we will roll over and accept what he has proposed. But we don't want to debate this issue through the media," Mr Harvey said.

Reporting a 2 per cent upturn in profits to £118m, Yorkshire said dividends would be hit by the review, but a dividend cut was unlikely.

Howard Cressy, group financial controller, said: "It is all to play for in terms of the price settlement. But it would be premature to anticipate the outcome of the review."

Analysts said Ofwat was unlikely to give much ground on price cuts. "What you are playing for is for the cuts to be nearer 15 than 20 per cent," said Geraint Anderson of SG Securities.

Shares in Pennon rose 7.5p to 1131.5p yesterday, while shares in Yorkshire were up 3.5p to 551p.

Not-so-steady Eddie storms off in a huff

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, is in danger of losing his nickname "Steady Eddie". Just ask Paul Linford.

Mr Linford is the *Newcastle Journal* correspondent who recently caused a political storm when he quoted – misquoted, according to the Bank – Mr George as saying that job losses in the North were "a price worth paying in order to keep inflation down". Giving evidence to MPs on the Treasury Select Committee yesterday, the Governor wasted no time in denouncing Mr Linford as a "sensation-seeking journalist".

Worse was to come. After the Governor had finished giving evidence to MPs he approached Mr Linford in the crowded committee corridor. Mr George and Mr Linford had a brief, but heated, exchange, which ended rather abruptly when the Governor declared: "Go away, you silly man."

A not-so-steady Eddie then stormed off, the unkind laughter of journalists ringing in his ears.

WILLEM BUITER, a member of Mr George's Monetary Policy Committee, gave a fascinating insight into economists' sense of humour this week.

Addressing the Society of Business Economists, Mr Buiter cracked a joke about the American hedge fund that nearly sparked a global meltdown in the summer. "Long-Term Capital Management man should have been renamed Short-Term Capital Mismanagement," he said. Apparently the roar of laughter from the gathered economists could be heard several blocks away. How sad.

GUY HANDS, Nomura's securitisation guru, has bought a £4m mansion in Sevenoaks called Churchill College, which is being renovated at great expense. It is "the talk of Sevenoaks", I hear from my suburban colleagues.

SIMON BRISCOE, former head of research at Nikko, is not happy at his treatment by Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank that has taken on a number of Nikko's analysts following the Japanese house's decision to call it a day in the UK. Salomon offered Mr Briscoe what he felt was the City equivalent of a job "counting paper clips" and so he quit. Storming off seems to be catching this season...

JACOBS HOLDINGS has come a long way since former Lloyds insurance broker Michael Kingshott took control from the last family member, John Jacobs, to run the 120-year-old shipping firm four years ago. Then the business consisted of 32 staff. Now Mr Kingshott, managing director, employs more than 1,600 people in shipping, road transport, distribution and property development.

Yesterday he poached Stephen Hepplewhite from Hays Group to be managing director of the shipping division, which includes Dart Line, set up two years ago, and Thames Europort, founded a year before. Last week Jacobs bought the Horizon transport business, which will be folded into its existing division under Wayne Denton, formerly of Securicor. Mr Kingshott is bullish about more deals: "Expect something next week," he says.

INCHCAPE continues to reinvent itself as a motor distributor. Yesterday it promoted Alan Ferguson from finance director of the international motors division to fd for the main board.

Mr Ferguson, who has been with Inchcape since 1983, will take over from Les Cullen on 1 January. Mr Cullen and Philip Cushing, Inchcape's current group chief executive, will help out with the restructuring until next June when they will both leave, and Peter Johnson, currently head of Inchcape Motors International, will take Mr Cushing's place.

I RECEIVED a press release yesterday headlined "Battle opens first ever British fashion designer industry conference". Was it handbags at dawn? No such luck. It was just John Battle, Minister for Energy and Industry, going on about his speech at a fashion conference on Wednesday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	5 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6020	0.6029	0.6042	0.3537
Australia	2.6046	2.6010	2.5962	1.5680	1.5681	1.5686	0.9212
Austria	19.898	19.866	19.818	11.979	11.977	11.974	7.0378
Belgium	58.338	58.186	57.885	35.120	35.080	34.975	20.633
Canada	2.5383	2.5346	2.5280	1.5281	1.5281	1.5274	0.8978
Denmark	10.751	10.729	10.687	6.4721	6.4682	6.4569	3.8024
ECU	1.4375	1.4340	1.4270	1.1556	1.1567	1.1599	0.8272
Finland	8.5962	8.5727	8.5310	5.1750	5.1685	5.1545	3.0404
France	9.480	9.454	9.407	5.7070	5.6995	5.6855	3.3529
Germany	2.8274	2.8196	2.8060	1.7021	1.6999	1.6954	1.0000
Greece	474.77	476.65	479.76	285.82	287.37	289.87	167.92
Hong Kong	12.862	12.845	12.829	7.7434	7.7441	7.7514	4.5493
Ireland	1.1381	1.1354	1.1297	1.4596	1.4611	1.4650	0.8575
Italy	2799.8	2792.4	2778.7	1685.5	1683.5	1678.9	990.25
Japan	203.12	202.03	199.87	122.28	121.80	120.76	71.841
Malaysia	6.5039	6.4325	6.6286	5.7950	3.8780	4.0050	2.2296
Mexico	16.499			9.9325			5.8554
Netherlands	5.1885	3.1788	3.1628	1.9195	1.9165	1.9109	1.1277
New Zealand	5.1252	3.1195	3.1144	0.5319	1.8807	1.8817	0.3125
Norway	12.487	12.498	12.531	7.5175	7.5350	7.5710	4.4166
Portugal	289.85	289.08	287.64	174.50	174.29	173.79	102.52
Saudi Arabia	6.2300	6.2261	6.2220	3.7506	3.7537	3.7594	2.2035
Singapore	2.7404	2.7290	2.7106	1.6498	1.6455	1.6378	0.9692
South Africa	9.4641	9.5564	9.7136	5.6975	5.7615	5.8690	3.3473
Spain	240.44	239.85	238.69	144.75	144.59	144.22	85.042
Sweden	13.530	13.494	15.424	8.1450	8.1552	8.1108	4.7853
Switzerland	2.3387	2.3281	2.3102	1.4079	1.4036	1.3958	0.8272
US	1.6611			1.0000			0.5875

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
		1.0000	Oman	0.6394	0.3850
Argentina	1.6611	1.1994	Pakistan	82.889	49.900
Brazil	1.9925	8.2779	Phillipines	65.663	39.530
China	13.750	50.485	Poland	5.7532	3.4635
Czech Rep	50.639	3.4275	Qatar	6.0460	3.6398
Egypt	5.6934	2340.0	Russia	30065.9	18100.0
Ghana	3887.0	220.55	South Korea	2058.9	1239.50
Hungary	366.02	42.555	Taiwan	55.956	32.482
India	70.655	7650.0	Thailand	60.049	36.150
Indonesia	12707.4	0.9032	Turkey	502732	302650
Kuwait	0.5036	86.000	UAE	6.1004	3.6725

INTEREST RATES

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	6.75%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	7.75%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	4.50%	Belgium	
Intervention	5.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.00%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	6.75%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	4.00%	Discount	5.25%	10-d Repo	3.50%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	4.00%	Repo(Ave)	3.60%	Lombard	3.38%

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.66	-0.04	4.60	-0.05	4.64	-0.03	4.83	-0.05	5.13	-0.04
Belgium	5.57	-0.01	3.43	-0.02	3.35	-0.03	3.64	-0.03	4.24	-0.03
Canada	4.75	-0.04	4.96	-0.01	4.92	-0.02	5.02	-0.03	5.18	-0.02
ECU	3.84	-0.01	3.54	-0.01	3.44	-0.04	3.72	-0.05	4.15	-0.03
France	0.00	-0.00	3.26	-0.03	3.55	-0.05	5.61	-0.01	4.13	-0.03
Germany	5.64	0.00	3.51	-0.01	5.27	-0.04	3.57	-0.02	4.06	-0.02
Italy	5.57	-0.14	3.50	-0.02	3.52	-0.02	3.69	-0.04	4.18	-0.05
Japan	0.15	0.01	0.20	0.02	0.30	0.03	0.68	0.06	1.08	0.09
N'lands	3.48	0.00	3.50	0.00	3.38	-0.04	5.64	-0.01	4.10	-0.01
Spain	3.25	-0.02	3.25	-0.02	3.40	-0.02	3.65	-0.02	4.30	-0.03
Sweden	3.65	-0.01	5.71	-0.01	5.75	-0.05	3.98	-0.02	4.44	-0.05
S'land	1.72	-0.05	1.78	0.02	1.59	0.06	1.90	0.00	2.41	0.00
UK	6.50	0.00	6.41	-0.02	5.30	-0.06	4.87	-0.07	4.74	-0.08
US	4.43	...	4.38	...	4.65	...	4.63	...	4.85	...

MONEY MARKET RATES

	Overnight Bid	Overnight Offer	1 week Bid	1 week Offer	1 month Bid	1 month Offer	3 months Bid	3 months Offer	6 months Bid	6 months Offer	1 year Bid	1 year Offer
Treasury Bills					6.57	6.47	6.45	6.30				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	6.50	6.63	6.63	6.75	6.78	6.84	6.81	6.88	6.56	6.63	6.286	34
Eurosterling Deps	6.63	6.75	6.88	6.94	6.78	6.84	6.61	6.68	6.56	6.63	6.286	34
Eligible Bank Bills					6.57	6.47	6.47	6.57	6.22	6.12		
Sterling CDs					6.83	6.75	6.81	6.73	6.51	6.41	6.198	09
Eurodollar CDs					4.97		5.22		5.03			
ECU Deposits					3.75	3.88	3.66	3.78	3.47	3.59		

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Dec-98	116.75	116.92	116.09	63217.00	63597.00
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-98	108.36	108.65	108.31	9.00	15.00
German Bund	Dec-98	114.00	114.17	113.97	572.00	2912.00
Italian Bond	Dec-98	112.04	112.29	111.98	8070.00	55166.00
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-98	136.80	136.97	136.77	4136.00	0.00
5 Mth Sterling	Dec-99	93.26	93.27	93.24	17519.00	190144.00
	Jun-99	94.23	94.24	94.17	16271.00	149664.00
3 Mth Euromark	Dec-98	96.44	96.45	96.43	44925.00	502557.00
	Jan-98	96.63	96.63	96.61	2020.00	7606.00
5 Mth Eurolira	Dec-98	96.41	96.41	96.38	5703.00	158575.00
	Mar-99	96.75	96.73	96.70	5555.00	254075.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Dec-98	99.36	...	...	...	0.00
5 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-98	98.22	98.27	98.19	13749.00	52829.00
	Mar-99	98.27	98.51	98.24	7131.00	53246.00
3 Mth Euro	Dec-98	96.39	96.39	96.38	126.00	9789.00
	Jan-99	96.60	...	...	...	0.00
FTSE 100	Dec-99	5884.00	5887.00	5801.00	11637.00	191385.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price: 5827.90

Series	Dec Call	Dec Imp Vol	Dec Put	Dec Imp Vol	Jan Call	Jan Put	Feb Call	Feb Put	Jun Call	Jun Put
5750	381	36	43	26	470	118	548	175	-1	-1
5800	538	34	52	26	433	131	511	188	718	361
5850	300	55	62	25	596	143	473	201	-1	-1
5900	263	32	77	24	359	157	438	217	656	397

ENERGY

Brent Crude($/barrel) Gas oil($/tonne)

IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	IPE	Close	Chg	Vol
Jan	11.01	-0.18	9354	Dec	99.00	-2.75	4756
Feb	11.26	-0.17	4628	Jan	103.50	-2.75	3286
Mar	11.56	-0.15	1115	Feb	106.75	-3.25	1554

WTI Crude($/barrel)

NYM	Last*	Chg
Jan	11.86	-0.26
Feb	12.28	-0.20
Mar	12.67	-0.17
Apr	13.02	-0.16

Products($/tonne)

	Spot CIF NW Eur
Gasoline 95	127.00
Naphtha	131.00
Gasoil	98.00
Fuel 00 (3.5%s)	60.50

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES

	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGYTD
Index	1970=100	137.49	-0.65	-0.47	213.26	-36.15
Agricultural	1970=100	191.10	1.38	0.73	251.23	-17.36
Energy	1983=100	44.92	-0.81	-1.77	85.86	-47.68
Ind Metals	1877=100	134.95	-0.50	-0.37	168.79	-20.05
Livestock	1970=100	148.32	2.05	1.40	191.03	-22.36
Prec Metals	1973=100	591.16	0.68	0.17	463.54	-15.61

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chgs
Aluminium HG	1294.5	1295.5	9.00	1302	1502.5	5.5	552675	2375
Aluminium Alloy	1075	1080	0.00	1105	1107	-3	92200	920
Copper A	1564	1565	-1.50	1591	1592	-2	499550	3600
Lead	502	503	-3.00	492	493	-5.5	105800	0
Nickel	4055	4065	-35.00	4120	4130	-35	61974	108
Tin	5355	5565	-55.00	5340	5350	-50	7690	-40
Zinc	984	985	1.50	1002	1003	2	331250	3275

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	550.00	-3.50	-32.00	Platinum	210.95	-1.60	-18.15	Krugerrands	289.69	-1.91
Palladium	275.00	0.00	66.00	Palladium	165.75	0.40	40.40	Sovs	65.23	
Silver	4.92	0.01	-0.32	Silver	2.97	0.02	-0.17	Nobles	386.05	
Gold	296.40	0.10	-0.60					Maple Leaf	291.25	-9.60

AGRICULTURAL AT 5.30PM

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	$75k kg
Dec98	948.00	Vol:	0	Nov98	78.30	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
Mar99	990.00	Nov98	2095.00	Jan99	79.00	Mar99	230.00	Apr99	579.00
May99	1009.00	Jan99	1749.00	Mar99	81.00	Apr99	305.50	May99	571.25
White Sugar*		Mar99	1674.00	May99	320.00	Jun99	580.25		
		Freight		Wheat		Corn*		Soya Beans*	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/tdx pt	LIFFE	$/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bsht	CBOT	$75k bshs
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
Dec98	243.20	Nov98	950.00	Nov98	78.30	Dec98	216.75	Nov98	65.30
Mar99	239.60	Dec98	914.00	Jan99	77.85	Mar99	226.25	Jan99	42.60
May99	242.40	Jan99	915.00	Mar99	79.70	May99	235.75	Mar99	87.50

OTHER SPOTS AT 5.30PM

Dec	Live Cattle	(CME)	$/40k lb	63.45	Dec	White Maize	(SAF) $/100 mt 620.00
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME)	$/40k lb	43.78	Apr	Rubber	(TCM) Y/5k kg 88.50
Jan	Orange Juice	(CTN)	$/15k lb	119.60	Mar	Cotton	(CTN) $/50k lb 64.00
Dec	Milk	(CSC)	$/50k lb	...	Dec	Crude Palm	(KLC) $/25 tn 2310.00
Dec	Oats	(CBT)	$/5k bsh	106.75	Jan	Soya Oil	(CBT) $/60k lb 24.92
Jan	Flax	(WCE)	$/20 tn	538.50	Apr	Woollen Yarn	(TCM) $/500kg 1165.00

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
ABN AMRO Pembroke Ltd					
GrowthIncome	225.53	239.93	-1.20	3.35	5.00
Equity Income	141.00	159.04	0.21	4.89	5.00
Growth	321.33	341.84	-0.56	0.90	0.00
High Income	56.17	59.75	0.12	7.54	5.00
GlobalGrthAcc	98.29	104.56	-0.28	0.55	0.00
AIB Govett Trust Ltd					
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR					
Tel: 0171 378 7979					
American General	358.10	380.10	2.81	0.17	5.00
American Sm Cos	98.52	(Mid)	1.57	0.00X	0.00
American Strategy	184.09	175.47	3.89	0.00	5.50
Asia Pac	63.59	67.00	1.11	1.00X	5.00
Balanced Exempt	167.74	173.82	0.00	2.16	3.00
Cash	9.54	9.50	0.00	5.25X	0.50
Core & Sel Ex	168.40	170.74	-2.10	2.57X	0.00
Corporate Bond	85.45	89.30	0.07	6.66	3.25
European General	412.25	438.10	2.79	0.00X	5.00
European Strategy	182.81	195.36	3.69	0.00X	5.50
FTSE Mid 250 Index	99.12	106.01	-2.58	1.89	5.50
Geared UK Index	23.10	24.40	0.01	5.75	5.50
Global Strategy	41.70	44.60	1.35	0.00	5.50
Greater China	157.10	168.12	-0.50	0.00	5.50
International Growth	182.00	184.42	2.45	0.11	5.50
Japan General	105.98	112.81	-0.85	0.00	5.00
Japan Tracker	128.81	(Mid)	-0.40	0.00	1.00
Latin American	68.71	73.48	1.85	0.00	5.50
Money Market	108.70	131.28	0.01	0.00	5.00
Monthly Income	44.04	47.10	0.01	7.96X	5.50
Pacific	123.47	(Mid)	0.10	0.00	2.00
Pacific Strategy	00.97	01.94	-1.13	0.00	5.50
UK Bear	4.50	4.54	-0.05	5.75	5.50
UK Equity General	410.71	445.40	0.35	1.00	5.00
UK EquitySafeguard	112.74	100.57	2.04	2.02X	5.50
UK Index	10.52	19.66	0.24	5.75	5.50
UK Safeguard	140.96	150.21	6.17	0.00	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	79.42	84.95	0.20	0.50	5.00
US Bear	3.01	3.81	0.00	4.00	5.50
US Equity Safeguard	93.21	99.00	0.00	0.00X	5.50
US Index	27.24	28.71	0.00	4.50	5.25
AXA Sun Life Fund Mgrs					
AmerGrowthAcc	141.30	149.30	1.00	0.00	5.00
Balanced Acc	81.33	86.41	0.66	1.70X	0.00
Balanced Inc	72.97	77.63	0.61	1.70X	0.00
British Excel	127.30	135.40	1.30	2.41X	0.00
BritishFndmtlsAcc	100.00	176.90	1.60	3.93	0.00
BritishFndmtlsInc	165.10	109.70	1.60	3.93	0.00
DiscretnyPtfolioAcc	63.98	68.04	-0.31	0.00X	5.00
Distribution	34.10	36.31	0.16	2.57S	5.00
Distribution Acc	38.31	40.70	0.22	2.57X	5.00
EmergMktsAcc	14.29	15.10	0.04	0.26	5.00
Ethical	20.91	22.24	0.09	1.51	5.00
Europe	549.50	584.00	10.00	0.62	0.00
EurpnGwthAcc	150.70	165.10	3.16	0.33	5.00
Extra Income Acc	59.67	63.26	0.09	5.39X	5.00
Extra Income Inc	42.10	44.53	0.07	5.39X	5.00
ForEastGwthAcc	105.40	112.16	6.40	0.00	5.00
General Acc	935.40	994.80	7.00	2.46	5.00
General Inc	740.00	796.20	6.30	2.40	5.00
Gilt&Fixed Inc	105.10	110.90	0.00	4.00	5.50
Gilts&FixedIntAcc	264.70	279.50	2.00	4.98	5.50
Global Opps	129.30	137.00	1.10	0.12X	0.00
Higher Inc Acc	1230.00	1308.00	25.00	4.34X	0.00
Higher Inc Inc	608.10	646.00	12.00	4.34X	5.00
Japan	33.72	35.87	0.17	0.00X	6.00
JapanGwthAcc	72.52	76.56	0.47	0.00X	0.00
MgdGrowthAcc	137.90	138.90	1.10	0.36	5.00
MgdHighYieldAcc	179.50	131.00	1.70	2.01X	5.00
MgdHighYieldInc	122.00	129.00	1.50	2.01X	5.00
MgdInc&GwthAcc	158.00	168.20	1.10	2.43X	5.00
MgdInc&GwthInc	115.70	122.10	0.70	2.43X	5.00
North America	508.90	541.40	3.50	0.00X	0.00
Pacific Basin	280.70	298.60	0.60	0.82X	5.00
Pacific Gwth	33.48	35.65	0.15	0.01	5.00
UK Growth Acc	129.50	137.70	1.00	1.77	5.00
UK Growth Acc (E & L)	639.10	679.00	6.90	2.14X	0.00
UK Growth Inc (E & L)	397.10	422.40	4.00	2.14X	6.00
UK Income Acc	135.90	144.50	0.00	2.13	5.00
UK Income Inc	83.32	88.64	0.01	2.13	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	40.29	42.85	0.16	2.10X	5.00
Abbey Unit Trust Managers					
American Growth	612.90	654.30	2.79	0.21	5.00
Asian Pacific	210.00	224.60	-0.70	0.55	0.00
Assets & Earnings	367.10	392.60	0.30	2.80X	0.00
Capital Reserve Acc	164.00	165.00	0.10	4.24	0.00
Dividend & Growth	90.35	96.12	0.00	3.20	6.00
Ethical	87.71	93.31	-0.31	1.94	0.00
European Capital	267.40	286.00	2.30	0.24	6.00
EuropeanCapitalAcc	292.60	312.90	2.50	0.24	0.00
Extra Income	41.24	43.87	0.00	5.94X	6.00
General	333.90	355.00	0.20	2.72	0.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	150.50	168.20	0.00	5.29	0.00
Global Gwth 0 Sec	82.94	88.54	0.07	1.97	6.00
Global Opps	79.13	84.10	0.45	6.38	0.00
High Inc Equity	242.30	259.10	0.20	3.93X	0.00
International	158.40	169.40	0.03	0.00	0.00
Japan	80.49	86.08	0.10	0.00	6.00
Latin American	52.40	56.04	0.05	1.20	0.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Korea	33.31	35.72	-0.55	0.00	5.25
Portfolio Acc	370.60	394.00	2.80	1.00	5.00
Portfolio Inc	189.40	201.40	1.50	1.00	5.00
UK Growth	149.80	159.40	0.00	1.20	5.00
UK Growth & Inc	31.64	32.40	0.64	2.20	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	170.00	180.50	0.10	0.50X	5.00
Charity Fund					
OverseasGwthEx	82.99	83.88	0.65	0.10	0.00
Britannia Fund Managers Ltd					
AmericanGwthAcc	170.63	177.74	1.60	0.00	4.00
AmericanGwthInc	167.45	174.43	1.00	0.00	4.00
BalancedGwthAcc	238.83	248.69	0.78	0.75	4.60
BalancedGwthInc	198.00	206.94	0.65	0.75X	4.60
EurpnGrowthAcc	246.70	256.00	1.94	0.00	4.60
EurpnGrowthInc	239.71	249.70	-2.37	0.00	4.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	116.27	120.49	0.27	6.71X	3.60
GiltsFixedIntAcc	152.20	157.72	0.35	0.71	3.50
Higher Yield Acc	131.00	137.36	1.05	3.72	4.00
Higher Yield Inc	78.31	81.57	1.19	3.72X	4.00
Intl Specl Opps Inc	213.60	222.58	-0.10	0.00	4.00
IntlSpeclOppsAcc	213.91	222.83	-0.10	0.00	4.00
Japan	39.39	41.00	-0.21	0.00	4.00
Japan Acc	39.39	41.03	-0.21	0.00	4.00
Managed Portfolio	84.40	87.00	0.19	1.42	4.00
ManagedPtfolioAcc	68.10	71.00	0.20	1.42	4.00
Pacific Growth	100.57	104.78	-0.17	1.40X	4.00
PacificGrowthAcc	101.58	105.84	-0.17	1.40	4.00
Smaller Cos	162.08	168.00	0.19	0.89X	4.00
Smaller Cos Acc	185.00	192.71	0.22	0.89	4.60
UK General	134.94	140.56	2.27	2.58	4.00
UK General Acc	152.10	158.44	2.56	2.58	4.00
CIS Unit Managers Ltd					
Europe	236.50	248.00	0.00	1.53	5.00
UK Growth	298.20	311.00	0.40	1.39	5.00
UK Income	207.40	217.70	-0.20	3.25X	5.00
Canada Life Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Balanced	67.00	72.69	0.35	1.80	0.00
Bond	202.90	213.70	0.65	4.70	0.00
European	133.10	141.40	1.40	0.14	0.00
Far East	188.31	201.40	-0.30	0.00	0.00
General Acc	595.70	635.60	4.00	1.05	0.00
General Dist	299.30	317.10	2.00	1.05	0.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	47.96	50.39	0.24	3.60X	0.00
Growth	361.00	385.50	2.10	1.21	5.25
High Income	297.00	317.00	1.00	2.77	0.00
Income Acc	588.90	624.20	2.30	2.72X	0.00
Income Dist	171.00	181.20	0.79	2.72X	0.00
Intl Growth	256.90	273.00	1.40	0.12	0.00
Japanese Growth	28.88	30.59	0.10	0.00	0.00
North American	386.80	409.60	2.00	0.00	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	241.96	258.80	1.00	1.31	0.00
StartseAcc	72.34	76.95	-0.17	0.00	0.00
Capel-Cure Myers Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
American 0 Gen	541.40	381.20	4.28	0.00	5.00
American&GenAcc	362.90	384.00	4.00	0.00	5.00
European Inc Acc	156.70	166.20	1.76	0.02	5.00
European Inc Inc	146.60	155.50	1.00	0.02	5.00
Extra Income	61.64	64.94	-0.30	5.34	5.00
ExtraIncomeAcc	73.94	78.65	-0.37	5.34	5.00
Fixed Interest Inc	114.60	117.60	0.30	5.29X	2.00
Growth Inc	727.60	774.10	5.20	1.67	5.00
Inc & Growth Acc	988.30	1030.20	2.80	4.27	5.00
Inc & Growth Inc	595.30	633.30	1.00	4.27	5.00
Japan & Gen Acc	40.36	53.22	0.23	0.00	5.00
Japan & Gen Inc	50.00	53.22	0.23	0.00	5.00
Smaller Cos Acc	120.00	128.23	0.57	2.72	5.00
Smaller Cos Inc	98.61	105.12	0.40	2.72	0.00
Special Sits	167.10	177.68	0.00	1.89	5.00
Special Sits Acc	210.60	230.50	1.30	1.60	5.00
Cazenove Unit Trust Mgmt Ltd					
American Portfolio	198.69	210.61	1.11	0.24	5.00
European Portfolio	206.98	220.29	4.12	0.25	5.00
Gresham General	47.89	50.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
High Income	50.06	51.95	0.53	5.90X	5.00
JapanesePortfolio	46.36	49.01	-0.07	0.00X	5.00
Pacific Portfolio	107.35	110.44	-0.55	1.78	5.00
Portfolio	123.10	130.87	0.52	2.06	5.00
UK Equity	121.88	129.65	0.07	1.47	5.00
UK Equity & Bond	72.00	76.30	0.30	5.22	5.00
UK Smaller Cos	48.77	51.52	-0.12	2.35	5.00
CGU Trust Managers					
Income Funds					
Deposit	92.19	92.10	0.01	6.24X	0.00
Deposit Acc	117.88	117.88	0.02	6.24X	0.00
Equity Inc Acc	978.69	1319.57	7.39	4.34X	4.00
Equity Inc Inc	240.38	250.42	1.82	4.34X	5.00
Europe Growth	387.50	382.64	0.30	0.00	5.00
FarEasternGrowth	92.97	96.85	0.10	5.25	4.00
Global Bond	76.84	79.22	0.15	4.84X	5.00
Global Bond Acc	97.43	101.49	0.19	4.84X	4.00
High Yield	131.94	189.54	0.72	5.34X	4.00
High Yield Acc	917.00	955.91	3.62	5.34X	4.00
Homemaker	111.21	118.32	0.46	1.94	5.00
Japan Growth	84.71	88.25	-0.05	0.00	4.00
Long Gilt Acc	210.99	210.84	2.47	4.31X	4.00
Long Gilt Inc	59.68	62.12	0.70	4.31X	4.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Family					
Asset	138.40	147.36	0.00	1.90X	0.00
Balanced	74.28	79.02	-0.10	1.87X	0.00
Fidelity Managed	162.30	171.60	-0.80	0.18	5.50
Managed	161.50	170.40	-1.00	1.73	5.50
Multi-Select	153.40	161.00	-0.40	0.35	5.50
Perpetual Mgd	151.00	159.00	0.30	0.47	5.50
Regency	00.40	80.45	-0.12	1.10X	0.50
SafetyNetSchemr	140.80	148.60	0.10	2.56	5.50
Smaller Cos	57.27	60.92	-0.03	2.41X	0.00
United Charities	354.10	375.60	-0.40	2.20X	0.00
Fidelity Investment Servs Ltd					
American	670.60	(Mid)	4.60	0.00	5.25
AmericanSpecSits	209.40	(Mid)	1.00	0.00	5.25
ASEAN	14.43	(Mid)	0.00	0.00X	5.25
Cash	100.00	100.00	0.00	6.60	0.00
Cash Acc	128.97	128.97	0.02	0.00	0.00
European	351.10	(Mid)	3.30	0.30	5.25
European Opps	137.70	(Mid)	1.00	0.00	5.25
Global Positn	43.06	(Mid)	0.39	0.10	5.25
Growth & Income	249.70	(Mid)	1.00	3.10	5.25
High Income	*34.80*	*(Mid)*	*0.08*	*4.51*	*4.00*
Income Plus	193.40	(Mid)	0.60	3.95	5.25
International PEP	71.00	(Mid)	0.48	0.09	5.25
Japan	150.50	(Mid)	-0.50	0.00	5.25
Japan Special Sits	31.39	(Mid)	0.01	0.00	5.25
Long Gilt	38.12	(Mid)	0.43	0.00	0.00
Managed Intl	546.80	(Mid)	3.90	0.54	5.25
ManagedPassPtflo	349.50	352.70	1.00	2.10	0.00
Moneybuilder Gwth	44.03	(Mid)	0.29	3.04	5.25
Moneybuilder Inc	28.90	(Mid)	0.04	6.32	0.00
Moneybuilder Index	41.74	(Mid)	0.25	2.26	0.00
Moneybuilder Plus	86.28	86.28	0.30	0.00	5.25
Portfolio	121.80	128.00	0.70	0.00X	5.25
Recovery	81.80	(Mid)	0.22	2.97	5.25
Special Sits	875.00	(Mid)	0.20	1.25	5.25
Sth East Asia	101.60	(Mid)	0.50	1.20	5.25
UK Growth	166.40	(Mid)	0.70	1.17	5.25
Wealth Builder	30.92	32.55	0.10	0.00	5.25
Foreign & Colonial Unit Mgmt Ltd					
EurpnSmallerCos	229.80	244.00	2.20	0.00	5.00
High Income	22.40	23.77	0.10	8.41X	5.00
Japan SmallerCos	11.22	12.02	0.21	0.00X	5.00
UK Smlr Cos Acc	30.41	32.52	0.02	2.12	5.00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	28.29	30.28	0.31	2.12	0.00
US Smaller Cos	531.00	565.60	7.60	0.00X	5.00
Framlington Unit Mgmt Ltd					
Amer Growth	143.40	151.00	1.50	0.00	5.00
Amer Growth Acc	143.40	151.00	1.50	0.00	5.00
Amer Smaller Cos	691.50	736.70	10.60	0.00	5.00
AmerSmlrCosAcc	706.60	752.70	10.50	0.00	5.00
Capital	381.00	405.50	2.20	1.43	5.00
Capital Acc	573.90	610.00	3.20	1.43	5.00
ContlSmallerCos	73.86	78.88	0.34	0.00	5.00
ContlSmlrCosAcc	79.21	84.63	0.60	0.00	5.00
Convertible	155.90	165.90	0.00	5.77	6.00
Convertible Acc	369.00	393.50	0.70	5.77	5.00
Emerging Markets	39.34	42.03	-0.03	0.07	5.00
Emerg Mkts Acc	39.60	42.30	-0.04	0.07	5.00
European	233.20	253.40	4.10	0.00	5.00
European Acc	254.40	269.60	4.40	0.00	5.00
Extra Inc Acc	846.00	900.00	3.00	3.86	5.00
Extra Income	498.25	530.00	2.30	3.86	5.00
Financial	275.00	292.60	2.60	0.88X	5.00
Financial Acc	209.60	314.00	2.90	0.68X	5.00
Gilt	87.66	89.96	0.37	5.50X	0.00
Gilt Acc	117.60	121.20	0.70	5.50X	0.00
Health Fund Acc	242.00	258.40	1.00	0.00X	0.60
Health Fund Acc	242.00	258.80	1.00	0.00X	0.00
Income&Growth	280.43	298.30	0.50	5.93X	5.00
Income&GwthAcc	481.60	512.30	0.00	3.93X	5.00
Intl Growth	517.70	550.40	4.80	0.00X	5.00
Inc Growth Acc	374.80	411.10	5.30	0.00X	5.00
Japan & General	115.00	122.10	-0.20	0.00	5.00
Japan & Gen Acc	110.70	123.30	-0.20	0.00	5.00
ManagdDistribAcc	74.86	79.15	0.00	4.20X	5.00
ManagdDistrib	65.02	68.73	0.00	4.20X	5.00
Managed Ptflo	137.50	144.70	0.70	1.52	5.00
MgdPtfolioIncAcc	153.20	161.36	1.00	1.52	5.00
Monthly Income	251.20	267.20	0.00	4.32X	5.00
MonthlyIncAcc	270.30	287.60	0.00	4.32X	5.00
Quarterly Inc	65.95	71.56	0.00	4.88X	5.00
QuarterlyIncAcc	84.51	90.33	0.00	4.88X	5.00
UK Growth	84.80	90.00	0.35	1.20X	6.00
UK Growth Acc	04.75	100.00	0.40	1.20X	5.00
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd					
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St,					
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3SH					
Enq: 0870 600 8300, Dealing: 0870 600 8300					
Amer Smaller Cos	207.00	220.80	1.00	0.00	5.70
American	98.68	105.60	0.70	0.00	5.75
American Acc	111.60	110.00	0.80	0.00	5.75
Asian Growth	151.70	161.00	0.30	0.00	5.75
AsianGrowthAcc	158.90	169.40	0.40	0.00	5.75
Australian	443.70	473.20	1.40	0.00	5.75
Australian Acc	505.60	538.30	1.50	0.00	5.75

SPORT

Second Test: Bowlers need to master tricks of wind to rattle Australia on granite-hard Perth wicket

England to resist Tudor gamble

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Perth

ENGLAND ARE in a quandary. After retreating to lick wounds and analyse shortcomings following their let-off in Brisbane, they now have to play on one of the most idiosyncratic pitches in the world. While their opponents are set to leave out one of three pacemen, England appear unsure who will best exploit Perth's hostile trio of pace, bounce and wind. Indeed several changes are likely, the most certain being the adoption of seven batsmen and four seam bowlers.

Had England lost the first Test, there would have been a case for gambling on someone like Alex Tudor. Australia have made something of a habit at capitulating to tall, black fast bowlers at the WACA in recent times, and Tudor's pace, if not his occasional waywardness, would be a boon.

The selectors, although staying in a casino with the team, are likely to tread cautiously. With Team England's latest fad of trying to find something positive from even the most unpromising situation, they could argue that had they taken their chances at The Gabba, and bowled out Australia for around 250, any change, particularly to the seam attack, would have been unthinkable.

In some ways the vagueness is understandable, for Perth has rarely been kind to the Poms. Since Ashes Test matches were first played here in 1970-71, England have won once, and that in 1978-79, when the Packer era was in full cry.

David Lloyd, the England coach, has particularly painful memories of Perth. Opening the batting in the 1974-75 series, Lloyd was hit in the nether regions by Jeff Thomson, then at his electrifying peak. "All that was meant to be inside the box was now outside it," Lloyd later described.

Although batsman can often have the wind knocked out of them, it is the one that blows up the Swan river that is a major factor. The Fremantle Doctor is so regular you can set your watch by it. Often calm during the morning session, its arrival is sudden and the flags around the ground tend to stiffen about lunchtime, remaining that way until well after the close.

More than anywhere else, cricket is a game of two ends at Perth, and tollers and swingers are crucial to the plot. Spinners, however, are not, though Graeme Hick with his off-breaks would make the perfect No 7 for this match, a role Ben Hollioake was meant to fill. Instead Hick, who is scheduled to fly back to England on Monday, will only be considered if Graham Thorpe'a stiff back, brought on by Tuesday'a eight-hour flight from Brisbane, gets worse.

Usually visiting teams get excited about the help the pitch gives fast bowlers, forgetting that half the overs are into a relentless breeze coming from the direction of fine leg. With Mark Butcher unlikely to offer more than a few trundlers – he does not want to risk an old groin injury, apparently – it will he down to Mark Ramprakash and one of Angus Fraser or Dominic Cork to do the donkey work.

Alan Mullally will probably chip in, coming downwind to attack and upwind to defend, while Darren Gough, and probably Dean Headley, can spread their spinnakers. Real pace and steep bounce can make fast bowlers giddy with delight and England must guard against getting too carried away with the short stuff. When Dennis Lillee bowled here in his prime, he aimed most to hit the top of off-stump. Last time Fraser played here, in the State match three weeks ago, he bowled consistently too short. When he tried to compensate, the frisky WA batsmen virtually treated him like a spinner.

> *'In Brisbane, I twice got out to soft dismissals. I've had one three-hour knock and all the others have been about three minutes'*

Cork, his outswinger proving elusive, did not excel in Perth last time, either. Unlike Fraser, he at least has the potential to use the breeze to shape the ball away from the right-handers. Hopefully chastened after his first-innings dismissal in the last Test, he should be better equipped to help the middle order – now almost certain to include John Crawley at No 7 – to get the competitive scores needed to pressurise Australia.

Scoring will not be easy and front-foot players will find runs difficult to come by, especially as Australia look set to play the tall Jason Gillespie alongside Glenn McGrath. So far, although McGrath has taken wickets with his bouncer, it is has been his accuracy and awkward length that have been the real architects of his success. With runs hard to come by, batsmen like Michael Atherton have been forced to take on the hook shot, always a risky proposition on Australia's big grounds.

"I'm happy at Athers having a go at me," said McGrath on Thursday. "I know that if I get my line and length right it'a hard to score. That way he'll either have to sit me out or have a hook if he wants to get runs."

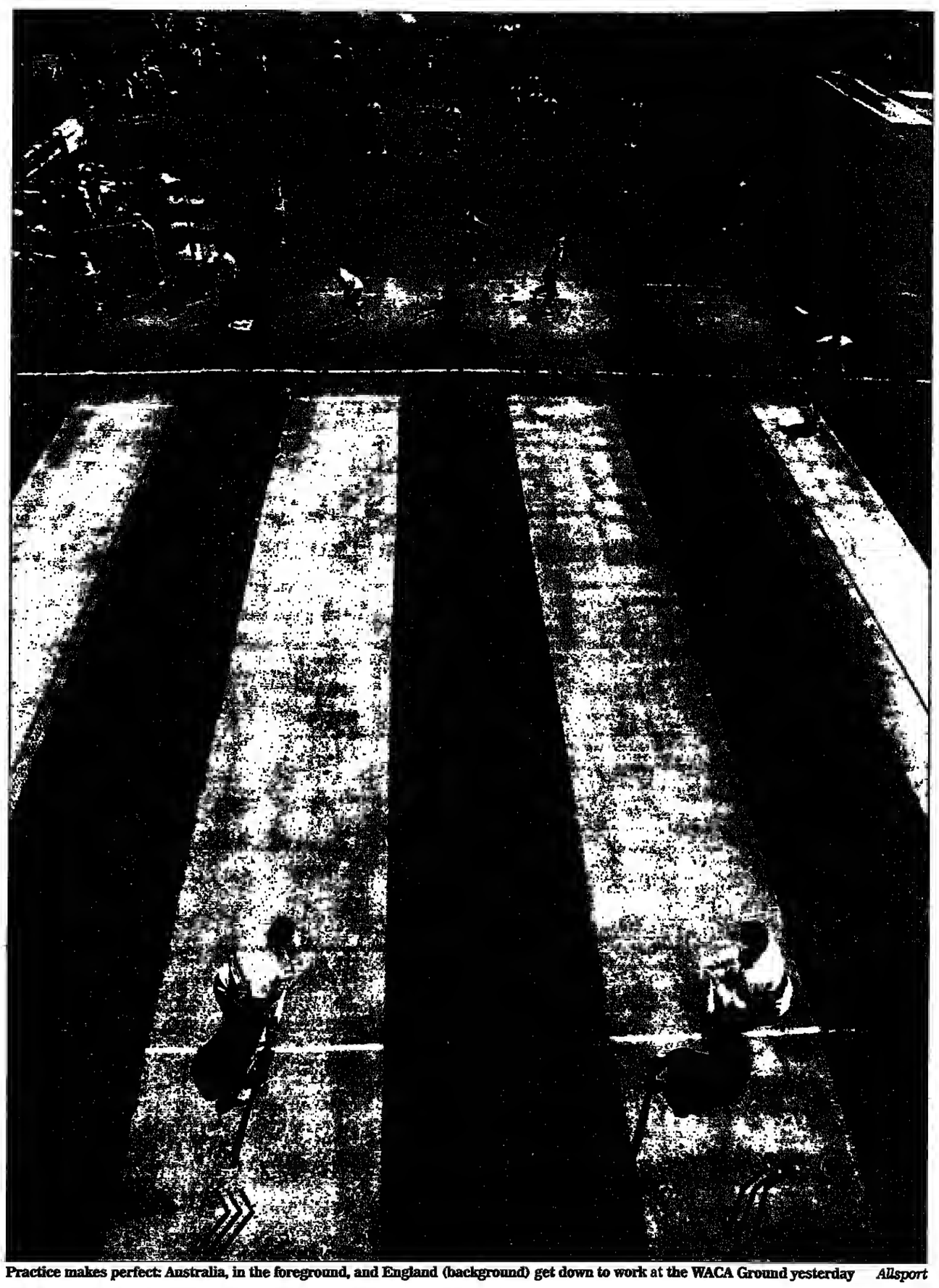
If McGrath's tussle with Atherton has become the microcosm of the series, it cannot hide the fact that England's captain is also short of runs.

"In Brisbane, I twice got out to soft dismissals," said Stewart, admitting that he could do with spending more time at the crease. "I've had one three-hour knock and all the others have been about three minutes. I've been working hard in the nets, but there is no substitute for time in the middle."

He should get it, for the pitch has not been used for two years, over which time it has been completely re-grassed. It would not be an exaggeration to say it is granite hard, and so far there are none of the cracks that have made batting last here in recent times an impossible task. Apparently, the problem was that the salt content in the soil was too high, a situation that caused the West Indies Cricket Board to relay the pitch at Sabina Park, with disastrous consequences.

That fracas will not be repeated here, though England will need their wits about them at all times if they are to compete. Australia are not easy to beat at Perth, but they can be held.

ENGLAND (from): M Atherton (Lancs), M Butcher (Surrey), N Hussain (Essex), A Stewart (Surrey, capt and wkt), G Thorpe (Surrey), M Ramprakash (Middlx), J Crawley (Lancashire), D Cork (Derby), D Gough (Yorkshire), A Fraser (Middlesex), D Headley (Kent), A Tudor (Surrey), A Mullally (Leicestershire).
AUSTRALIA (from): M Taylor (capt), M Slater, J Langer, M Waugh, S Waugh, R Ponting, I Healy (wkt), D Fleming, J Gillespie, M Kasprowicz, C Miller, G McGrath.



Practice makes perfect: Australia, in the foreground, and England (background) get down to work at the WACA Ground yesterday *Allsport*

Warne pays for outburst

SHANE WARNE has been fined A$2,400 (£900) by the Australian Cricket Board for criticising an umpire during a recent Sheffield Shield match.

Warne, who has only just returned to competitive action following an injury lay-off, was found guilty of breaching the board's code of conduct. The Victoria captain was fined the equivalent of his match fee for an outburst at a post-match press conference at the WACA ground 10 days ago.

Warne was unhappy with an lbw decision given by umpire Randolph Woolridge against Victorian batsman Graeme Vimpani in the match against Western Australia. "Everyone in the ground knew be [Vimpani] hit it bar him [the umpire]," Warne said at the time.

Sri Lankan cricket officials have inclnded off-spinner Muthiah Muralitharan in a 15-man squad to tour Australia, disregarding threats from the Australian umpire Darrell Hair that he will question his bowling action.

Australian cricket chiefs are pressing the International Cricket Council for a quick decision over the row. Sri Lanka bave urged the ICC to ban Hair from their matches in the triangular tournament in January for comments he made in his book about Muralitharan. Hair no-balled him seven times in a three-over period during the 1995 Boxing Day Test against Australia in Melbourne and described the spinner's action as "diabolical" in his recently published autobiography, writing that he would have no hesitation in calling him again.

■ Discarded Test opener Matthew Elliott hit an unbeaten century in the Sheffield Shield yesterday. The left-hander scored 144 not out, his fourth century of the season, as Victoria reached 248 for 1 against South Australia on the first day in Melbourne.

Tourists kick off with a flourish

BY TONY COZIER
in Johannesburg

West Indies 249-7 v S Africa

THE WEST INDIES began their much-fanfared inaugural Test in South Africa with the expected bang yesterday, but had to choose more conventional methods to ensure they did not entirely squander the advantage of winning the toss.

Batting on a true, straw-coloured pitch that they believe will aid spin by the fourth day, they rattled up 53 off 13 overs in the first hour, mainly through a varied and breathtaking array of nine boundaries.

By then, they had also lost three wickets, the swashbuckling openers Clayton Lambert and Philo Wallace and the captain Brian Lara, spectacularly bowled off the inside-edge for 11, all to the impressive Shaun Pollock, who had also floored a couple of stiff return catches into the bargain.

This was the excitement South Africans feared they might be denied as Lara and his colleagues were making their board sweat over the pay negotiations in London that jeopardised the trip. But it could not last, and the remainder of the day developed into more measured fare as the tourists battled to recoup their early losses.

After the initial fireworks, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the top scorer, with 74 that occupied more than a third of the day, and Carl Hooper spent two and a quarter hours rebuilding the innings with a circumspect partnership of 91 for the fourth wicket. When Chanderpaul became stalled after passing 50, Stuart Williams dominated a further stand of 45.

The patient South Africans snared all three before the total reached 200 and it was left to a level-headed, unbeaten 23 by the big fast bowler Nixon McLean, with help from the wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs and the leg-spinner Rawl Lewis, to see out the day.

Hooper and Williams succumbed to the kind of loose strokes that have so often been their undoing when well set, while Chanderpaul was leg before after a vigil that lasted four and a half hours and 210 balls.

Allan Donald accounted for both Hooper, taken at solitary slip off a swish outside off-stump, and Chanderpaul. They were consolation prizes for the rough treatment South Africa's premier fast bowler had received before lunch, when his eight overs were plundered for 50 runs.

Among them were nine fours, four off successive balls by Hooper, who was dropped by Pollock off his third ball and by Jonty Rhodes at midwicket off Symcox the over before his demise. In between, he was handicapped by a groin strain that necessitated the use of Wallace as his runner.

First day; West Indies won toss
WEST INDIES – First Innings

C B Lambert c Boucher b Pollock	8
P A Wallace b Pollock	16
*B C Lara b Pollock	11
S Chanderpaul lbw b Donald	74
C L Hooper c Cullinan b Donald	44
S C Williams c Cronje b Terbrugge	35
†R D Jacobs c Cronje b Kallis	14
N A M McLean not out	23
R N Lewis not out	11
Extras (lb6, w2, nb5)	13
*Total (for 7, 90 overs)	249

Fall: 1-17, 2-24, 3-41, 4-132, 5-177, 6-198, 7-235.
To bat: C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh.
Bowlings: Donald 20-3-83-2, Pollock 20-4-51-3; Kallis 15-5-37-1; Terbrugge 18-5-32-1; Cronje 1-0-3-0, Symcox 18-4-37-0
SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, *W J Cronje, J M Rhodes, S M Pollock, †M V Boucher, P L Symcox, A A Donald, D J Terbrugge.
Umpires: C J Mitchley and D R Shepherd.

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Exposing the tabloid myths

Sir: Reading Richard Williams' article 'Hoddle ducks the patriot missiles' (Friday, 20 November) I was reminded of the column Suzanne Moore wrote several weeks ago entitled 'The joy of being on the left'. For Williams's article could have been headed 'The joy of being a broadsheet reader'.

Taut, rational with a cerebral spine running through it, here was an article which, quite apart from its subject matter, could never have been published in a tabloid. Its clinical use of detail, contrasting so sharply with what the tabloids had done with remarks Glenn Hoddle made on Monday, revealed the misleading nature of much of what they are writing.

It is fashionable to praise *The Sun*, to argue that the tabloids understand popular culture while 'the unpopulars' miss the point. This is wrong because, while 'King of the Hill' and 'South Park' may be culture, Anthea Turner is not.

And as *The Times* becomes ever more efficient at self-censorship – where was their story of the 1,000 angry Manchester United shareholders? – the real broadsheets become ever more valuable to society.
TOM DE CASTELLA
Sheffield

It is time to take the whip away

Sir: In the last-ditch of the defenders of cruelty to animals, along with the fox hunters and sitting-duck shooters, are those who like to whip racehorses.

They – the trainers, jockeys, owners – by their advocacy of whipping show contempt for the animals from which their livings are made. And, no matter what action is taken to keep whipping within what are considered to ba "bounds", the present ethos of horse-racing is whip-based. Mr Dettori says "leave the matter to the professionals who can judge whether a horse needs one or a hundred" blows. He is backed by the majority of horsey people. They are given sneaky support by TV sports programmes.

But their vested interests should not smokescreen the loathing many more citizens (including racegoers) feel when seeing some game, exhausted horse having pain inflicted on it for the sake of human greed. Surely if NO jockey carried a whip we would see true courage and stamina from rider and horse.
Jim Brunton,
Edinburgh

Golf must go back to its roots

Sir: From 1929 until 1981, The Professional Golfers' Association were glad to use traditional golf courses every four years to stage The Ryder Cup. The clubs involved, at considerable expense to themselves, provided all necessary facilities.

However, since 1984 the PGA have discovered that modern complexes, opened by corporate owners, are prepared to pay huge sums to stage golf's premier fixtures. Their "generosity" has nothing to do with the spirit of the game, but rather the colossal profits which the contest generates for years ahead. The high cost of playing golf at Valderrama and The Belfry illustrates the point.

When The Ryder Cup goes to Ireland for the first time in 2005, Portmarnock, which was founded in 1894, should be the automatic choice because it is recognised as one of the world's finest links and has been previously used for The Walker Cup, The Canada Cup and many more.

Sadly, the odds are the PGA will settle for The K Club, opened seven years ago and owned by Dr Michael Smurfit who, following the example of Valderrama's owner, Jamie Patino, is prepared to talk the language the organisers understand. Samuel Ryder would be very sad to see the way his brainchild has been exploited.
Peter Hughes,
Shepshed

Let TV solve the offside problem

Sir: Rakesh Chhabra (Letters, 11 November) wants to get rid of the offside law because it results in goals being disallowed. He also says that teams playing offside traps are boring. He is wrong on both counts. The real problem is that of amateurish, ball-watching linesmen. They continually stop exciting "one-on-one" situations because they were asleep to attackers' runs when the ball was played. In every match I see there are at least four such incidents.

And the solution? Decide offside in the Premiership through camera replays and Mr Chhabra will enjoy more goalmouth incidents.
Christopher Brandt,
Paddock Wood,
Kent.

Last crack of the whip draws closer

By Greg Wood

IT IS less than a fortnight since Tony McCoy arrived at the Jockey Club to face discipline for abuse of the whip amid solemn warnings that racing faced a "civil war" over the issue of the stick. Jockeys, trainers and owners were said to be dug in on one side of the battlefield, and the Jockey Club just as firmly established on the other. The sport itself was about to make the dangerous journey into no-man's land.

The fact that a negotiated peace seems to have broken out instead has attracted rather less attention. Perhaps it has just taken everyone by surprise. On Wednesday, the Jockey Club decided to experiment with a series of "whipless" races early in the new year, in which whips will be carried for safety purposes only and their use for encouragement forbidden. Yesterday, the RSPCA welcomed the idea, and Bernard Donigan, its equine specialist, said that he felt sure that "everyone is heading down the same road now".

This, apparently, includes the jockeys themselves. Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's director of regulation, said yesterday that when the experiment was suggested to the relevant trade associations, "I wondered if it might be seen as the thin end of the wedge, but it was warmly embraced by all the organisations."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Bold Gait
(Newbury 2.30)
NB: Tapage
(Lingfield 1.40)

It will certainly appear very odd when a field gallops for the line with not a waving whip in sight. Punters as well as jockeys will need time to get used to the idea. But Wallace is convinced that even the hard-nosed backers in the betting shops will come to appreciate its merits.

"When jockeys don't use their whip, whether they are young or old, the chances of interference are very much lessened," Wallace said, "because horses don't get the opportunity to hang away from the whip and bump their neighbour. So a by-product is that there will be less interference, fewer demoted horses and therefore happier punters."

The whipless races will, initially at least, be restricted to apprentice jockeys, and Wallace was quick to emphasise that "this is an educational programme for young jockeys and we haven't looked any further than that".

The RSPCA, though, will inevitably push for the scheme to be extended in due course. "Our opinion is that it would take away the possibility of horses getting injured if the use of the whip was restricted to keeping your hands on the reins," Donigan said yesterday. "There is a difference between encouragement and punishment."

In the meantime, the organisation would like to see jockeys obliged to carry modern, "horse-friendly" whips. "If it was up to me, I would have a pilot scheme and use air-cushioned whips for 12 months," Donigan said. "If it has done the job at the end of it, don't tinker with it. I keep being accused of being a crank and a fanatic, but I am not into the business of banning whips. All I want is a square deal for the horse."

There is no realistic prospect of all racing being "whipless" in the near future, and there are still riders both on the Flat and over jumps who resent any attempt to tell them how to do their job. Some punters, too, believe that "not whipping" is little different to "not trying".

The next generation of jockeys, though, should now learn that a crack or two at the furlong pole is not obligatory. Young punters, too, will not always need to shout "hit him" at the same moment. It may be a generation or more before a majority find the idea perfectly reasonable, but a gradual, and relatively peaceful, change in attitudes now seems inevitable.

The Toiseach, who put in pleasing work yesterday in preparation for tomorrow's Hennessy *Phil Smith*

Istabraq the target

DAVID EVANS yesterday forecast that Master Beveled will give Istabraq a fight on Sunday. The Welshpool trainer's charge finished four lengths adrift of the Champion Hurdler at Cork three weeks ago but he is expecting a better show when the pair meet again in the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse.

"I do believe that Master Beveled is good enough to finish a lot closer to Istabraq on Sunday," Evans said. "At Cork I thought Tommy Treacy had given him too much to do but Tommy said that the horse got stuck in the soft ground. With better ground in prospect, I'm looking forward to the race."

Toiseach shows his authority

THE TOISEACH yesterday delighted his connections in his final warm-up for tomorrow's Hennessy Gold Cup. The ante-post second favourite completed his preparations for Newbury in a four-furlong gallop on Equitrack at Newmarket under Steve Smith Eccles.

"That was a nice pipe-opener," Smith Eccles said, "and has put the finishing touches on him. He's been bucking and kicking all week and is bursting with vitality. With such a low weight on Saturday, it is too good an opportunity to miss."

Nicky Richards has booked Richard Guest to ride Addington Boy for the race, but he warned that substantial rain at the Berkshire course would prevent the gelding from making the line-up for the £70,000 chase. "Addington Boy is not that straightforward but Richard is very experienced," Richards said. "He is a strong boy who can get him settled and get him jumping."

Luso on the outside

LUSO WAS yesterday given the widest draw of all in Sunday's Japan Cup at Tokyo. The six-year-old, whose trainer Clive Brittain landed the race with Jupiter Island in 1986, will start from stall 15. But he will have the assistance in the saddle of Michael Kinane, who drove Pilsudksi to victory a year ago.

Godolphin's Faithful Son (Frankie Dettori) was drawn in stall four, alongside the US challenger Maxzene (Cash Asmussen). Other overseas contenders are Canada's Chief Bearhart (Jose Santos, stall six) and the German pair, Caitano (Olivier Peslier, eight) and Ungaro (Terence Hellier, 14).

Newbury 2.30

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Bold Gait	15-8	6-4	7-4	6-4	7-4
Serenus	11-2	11-2	11-2	8-1	9-2
Tiutchev	11-2	9-2	7-1	9-2	7-1
Virtuoso	7-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	11-2
Polar Prospect	8-1	[illegible]	7-1	8-1	8-1
Line Of Conquest	9-1	10-1	9-1	10-1	9-1
Danegold	12-1	16-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Shoofk	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
Sound Appeal	14-1	25-1	25-1	16-1	25-1
Dancing Paddy	25-1	25-1	25-1	33-1	20-1

Each way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3
C Coral, H Wm Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

NEWBURY

HYPERION

1.00 Door To Door
1.30 Zander
2.00 Mr Strong Gale
2.30 Bold Gait
3.00 Shadiann
3.30 Sherganzar

GOING: Good.
■ Left-hand course.
■ Course is SE of town near A34. Railway station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £14; Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4 (OAPs half price). Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Southmead £2; Picnic area £4; remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: O Nicholson 20 winners from 91 runners (success rate 22%), O Sherwood 15-50 (30%), N Henderson 15-88 (17%), M Pipe 14-71 (19.7%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne 31 wins from 94 rides (success rate 33%), M A Fitzgerald 16-126 (12.7%), R Dunwoody 13-93 (14%), A P McCoy 12-86 (14%).
■ FAVOURITES: 134 wins in 337 races (39.8%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: King Priam (3.30).

1.00 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 3m 110yds Penalty Value £4,033

1 F1-12R MIGHTY PHANTOM (13) (Torrance Racing) R Phillips 5 11 5 .... J Osborne
2 4F1- DALCASSIAN KING (257) (D) (Lord MacLaurin) N Henderson 5 11 0 .... M A Fitzgerald
3 60-32 DOOR TO DOOR (12) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 8 11 0 .... G Bradley
4 PPP44- EXACT (FR) (194) (Ford Farm Racing) O Nicholson 6 11 0 .... J Eddery (7)
5 2 HOT TO TROT (31) (The Bumper Pack) K Bailey 5 11 0 .... N Williamson
6 200-33 JABIRU (20) (Mrs R J Skan) P Hobbs 5 11 0 .... R Dunwoody
7 10630- LUGGSY (254) (John Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 0 .... C Llewellyn
8 5/0 MISTER RIVER (13) (Mrs Ann Shaw) D Elsworth 7 11 0 .... P Holley
9 0/0 PIRATE MINSTREL (17) (Mrs P S Hunt) R Champion 8 11 0 .... B Powell

– 9 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Door To Door, 7-2 Hot To Trot, 9-2 Dalcassian King, 7-1 Luggsy, 16-1 Jabiru, 12-1 Mighty Phantom, 14-1 Exact, 20-1 Mister River, 25 Pirate Minstrel
1997: Jet Boys 7 11 0 A P McCoy 13-8 fav (Mrs J Pitman) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Mighty Phantom: Early-season Hereford winner. Refused to race behind Lotschberg Express at Windsor following four-month break and looks one to be wary of
Dalcassian King: Irish point-to-point winner in March. Well thought-of chasing prospect from an in-form yard whose runners are usually ready first time
Door To Door: Improved for longer trip when staying-on 2½ length second to Arctic Camper in well-contested Cheltenham 2m 5f nov hdle. Should be suited by extra 3f
Exact: Winner of a 2m3f chase in France. Subsequently tackled good class company over fences. Debut for new yard but ridden by inexperienced claimer
Hot To Trot: Promising debut when, led 3rd to flat, 2 lengths 2nd of 12 to Explain This in moderate Cheltenham 2m maiden hdle. Something to find in this better company
Jabiru: Confirmed Worcester promise when 33 lengths 3rd of 10 to King's Road in Chepstow 2m 4f nov hdle but appears to have a stiffer task again here
Luggsy: Failed to progress after first-time-out Hereford NH Flat win last season. Strong jumping pedigree and from a yard with a good record with novice stayers
Mister River: Little sign of ability when 10th of 14 to Dancing Laird on Windsor 2m hurdles debut. Yard novices usually progress with experience
Pirate Minstrel: Soon behind when 11th of 13 to Forever Noble in Huntingdon 2m nov hdle. Looks out of his depth in this stronger company

VERDICT: This trip looks made-to-measure for DOOR TO DOOR, who is on an upward curve and had the smart *Lady Of Gortmerron* and yesterday's Uttoxeter winner Sporadic Missile behind when runner-up at Cheltenham. He looks a cut above fellow Cheltenham runner-up Hot To Trot, who might prove less of a danger than point-to-point winner Dalcassian King, who is said to have pleased Nicky Henderson.

1.30 OXFORDSHIRE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m Penalty Value £4,796

1 0-111 VILLAGE KING (31) (D) (Capt E J Edwards-Heathcote) P Hobbs 5 11 10 .... R Dunwoody
2 0330/1 IVY BOY (11) (Gianluca Partnership) C Mann 6 11 8 .... Mr N Fehily (7)
3 6636B- FULL OF VODKA (202) (P J Vogt) K Bailey 8 11 5 .... N Williamson
4 2320-2 ZANDER (9) (John Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 5 .... C Llewellyn

– 4 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Village King, 5-2 Zander, 9-2 Ivy Boy, 7-1 Full Of Vodka
1997: Strong Chairman 6 11 3 T J Murphy 11-10 fav (P Nicholls) 3 ran

FORM GUIDE

Village King: Had subsequent winners King Of Sparta and Influence Pedler behind when beating River Dawn ¾ length at Cheltenham (2m 4f hcap ch). Stays 3m
Ivy Boy: Point-to-point winner. First outing for two years when impressive 14-length winner from Reflex Courier at Plumpton (2m 5f mdn chase). Fluent fencer
Full Of Vodka: Placed in Fairyhouse 2m 4f maiden *hurdle* from six outings last season. First run for new yard and one to note in the betting
Zander: Returned to hurdling after promising chasing debut last year but again looked a useful prospect when brave 5-length second to Bramshaw Wood at Kempton (3m).

VERDICT: The Cheltenham form of VILLAGE KING is looking particularly strong, and with the weights on his side he should make it five on the trot, provided he can iron out the odd jumping blemish. Ivy Boy looked a cut above the usual Plumpton novice winner last week but is stepping up in grade and Zander is likely to provide the top-weight with his toughest test.

2.00 JACKY UPTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £7,225

1 34P-4F SENOR EL BETRUTTI (13) (C) (D) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 9 12 0 .... G Bradley
2 F1F33- *CALLISOE BAY (244) (CD) (R Waters) O Sherwood 9 10 8* .... *J Osborne*
3 1211? STORMY PASSAGE (233) (C) (D) (BF) (P Luff) P Hobbs 8 10 6 .... A Thornton
4 2PPR1- COLONEL IN CHIEF (224) (D) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 6 10 3 .... R Dunwoody
5 6215-1 JIBBER THE KIBBER (20) (D) (J Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6 10 3 .... O Leahy
6 -46P40 STATELY HOME (44) (D) (BF) (P Bowen) P Bowen 7 10 3 .... N Williamson
7 112-0U PHILIP'S WOODY (13) (D) (B R Wisdom) N Henderson 10 10 0 .... M A Fitzgerald
8 112-11 MR STRONG GALE (9) (D) (T Chappell, R Eddy) P Nicholls 7 10 0 (6ex) .. T J Murphy B

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Mr Strong Gale 9st 12lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Mr Strong Gale, 9-2 Jibber The Kibber, 5-1 Stormy Passage, 8-1 Colonel In Chief, Callisoe Bay, 13-2 Senor El Betrutti, 9-1 Philip's Woody, 12-1 Stately Home
1997: Callisoe Bay 6 10 0 J A McCarthy 9-4 (O Sherwood) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Senor El Betrutti: Finding life tough in handicaps since 6lb rise for Tripleprint Gold Cup win last season. Probably vulnerable to progressive sort. Best on sound surface
Callisoe Bay: 6lb higher when narrow winner from reluctant Challenger Du Luc here last year. Trained off later but goes very well fresh and is back over best trip here
Stormy Passage: Smart novice last season with Chepstow, Sandown and Kempton wins. Jumps well and interesting candidate on handicap debut, but breaks blood vessels
Colonel In Chief: Smart on his day, particularly when beating Corston Joker at Ayr (2m 4f) in April from 4lb lower, but breaks blood vessels and is difficult to predict
Jibber The Kibber: Yet to live up to expectations over fences but career-best effort to beat Flaming Miracle ¾ length on reappearance at Uttoxeter 2m 5f. 4lb higher here but could go on now and should get the fast-run race he needs
Stately Home: Smart novice two seasons ago (winner from 9lb higher) but on long losing run and little encouragement when 27 lengths 7th of 8 to Forestal at Wetherby
Philip's Woody: Boasts high wins-to-runs ratio, and still improving last backend. 4lb *higher than latest win but still on fair mark and ideally suited by trip. Hampered when* unseating at Cheltenham on reappearance
Mr Strong Gale: Improving fast and impressive when beating Camitrov 4 lengths at Kempton (2m 4f). Should take a hand from only 6lb higher but needs sound surface

VERDICT: Callisoe Bay boasts a good first-time-out record and, with his stable in good form, is a tempting proposition at the weights. But he has promised more than he has delivered and JIBBER THE KIBBER makes more appeal, now that has put his act together over fences. He is still well below his best hurdles mark and has scope for improvement. Stormy Passage and Colonel In Chief are also capable of a big show, but Mr Strong Gale looks the main threat on his improved Kempton display.

2.30 PLACEPOT GROWING WITH TOTE DIRECT HANDICAP HURDLE (B) £8,000 2m 110yds

1 -3110 DANEGOLD (12) (D) (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 8 12 0 .... D Byrne
2 131-P5 SOUND APPEAL (17) (D) (R W & J R Fidler) G McCourt 4 11 8 .... A Thornton
3 115-2F VIRTUOSO (12) (D) (Mrs M Devine) C Mann 4 11 8 .... R Dunwoody
4 1-2225 POLAR PROSPECT (12) (D) (Mr & Mrs D Last/Bill Yates) P Hobbs 5 11 6 .... G Tormey
5 14304- SERENUS (233) (D) (W V M W & Mrs E S Robins) N Henderson 5 11 7 .. M A Fitzgerald
6 28/11- TIUTCHEV (378) (D) (Liars Poker Partnership) O Nicholson 5 10 11 .... A Maguire
7 21610- LINE OF CONQUEST (253) (D) (Miss C A James) Mrs J Pitman 8 10 11 .... B Powell
8 4000-1 BOLD GAIT (17) (CD) (Mrs I Phillips) J Fanshawe 7 10 6 .... J Osborne
9 /P60-4 DANCING PADDY (13) (CD) (Bychance Racing) K C-Brown 10 10 5 .... J R Kavanagh
10 423/03 SHOOFK (13) (Sean Devine) S Dow 7 10 3 .... C Llewellyn

– 10 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Bold Gait, 9-2 Serenus, 11-2 Virtuoso, 7-1 Tiutchev, 9-1 Polar Prospect, 9-1 Line Of Conquest, 14-1 Danegold, Shoofk, 20-1 Dancing Paddy, 25-1 Sound Appeal
1997: Stormyfairweather 6 10 9 M A Fitzgerald 3-1 jt fav (N Henderson) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Danegold: Vastly improved on the Flat and over hurdles and no show in the better race won by Grey Shot at Cheltenham last time. Stiff task with 12st
Sound Appeal: Useful last season and and fit from a Flat outing when pulled up behind *Tyrolean Dream at Chepstow. 8lb lower mark today*
Virtuoso: Won at Uttoxeter and Warwick with today's partner Richard Dunwoody last season but faces a stern test for a 4-y-o
Polar Prospect: Prefers muddy conditions, but dropped in class after runs behind Sir Talbot at Chepstow, Mr Percy at Ascot and Grey Shot at Cheltenham
Serenus: Goes well fresh and trainer in great form. Won first two starts last term (at Huntingdon and Kempton) and will take the beating
Tiutchev: Won both starts very easily last term, a novice at Exeter and a competitive handicap at Cheltenham. 12lb higher mark today but still a gelding to keep an eye on
Line Of Conquest: First start for Jenny Pitman. Wants a left-hand track and Brendan Powell has won on him. First outing since the County Hurdle at Cheltenham
Bold Gait: Smart Flat handicapper who won here 17 days ago with plenty in hand. Shoulders only 10st 6lb despite the 16lb higher mark
Dancing Paddy: Has lost his old dash and hard to fancy after the latest 25-length fourth-of-nine to Dragon King at Windsor
Shoofk: Has not won for three years and no extra after leading to three out in Dragon King's race at Windsor on latest start

VERDICT: BOLD GAIT looks a steal off 10st 6lb after cruising home on this course 17 days ago. This opposition is a lot stronger but Bold Gait was a classy handicapper on the Flat and raced off a rating of 100 in the Cesarewitch so today's mark of 105 is far from being severe. Serenus has won when fresh in the past so he's sure to go well with the stable being on a high. Tiutchev has also shown winning ability when fresh.

3.00 NEWBURY ARCADE CONDITIONALS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £5,000 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,566

1 3-2121 TAUFAN BOY (7) (Supreme Team) G Balding 5 12 2 (6ex) .... F Kenny (5)
2 /3203- GONE FOR A BURTON (F50) (H P Carrington) P Makin 8 11 8 .... J Tizzard
3 P11-33 BRAMBLEHILL DUKE (27) (South Wales Showers) Miss V Williams 8 11 4 .... S Kelly (3)
4 331-40 FILSCOT (20) (D) (P J Morgan) C Morlock 6 10 10 .... S Durack
5 0F5-01 SHADIANN (9) (M Blackburn & J Brown) P Murphy 4 10 8 (6ex) .... L Aspell
6 PFR- REWARD (239) (Athole Still) C Mann 4 10 3 .... J Magee (3)
7 033/ EZANAK (606) (West Lockinge Partnership) Miss H Knight 5 10 0 .... L Cummins
8 UP-455 LAUGHING FONTAINE (20) (C) (Racing Club KCB) K Bailey 8 10 0 .... E Byrne (5)
9 P452-2 *STRAY HARMONY (17) (Winwood Cornell Partnership) R Smith 8 10 0* .... *M Batchelor*
10 03-500 LIME STREET BLUES (7) (Blues Partnership) T Keddy 7 10 0 .... Michael Brennan
11 206040 SOVEREIGN (9) (J Parvert) J Parvert 4 10 0 .... O Creech (5)

– 11 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Laughing Fontaine 9st 10lb, Stray Harmony 9st 4lb, Lime Street Blues 8st 11lb, Sovereign 8st 8lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Shadiann, 7-2 Taufan Boy, 9-2 Gone For A Burton, 5-1 Bramblehill Duke, 7-1 Filscot, Stray Harmony, 12-1 Ezanak, Laughing Fontaine, 20-1 others
1997: Welsh Silk 5 10 4 Sophie Mitchell (3) 11-4 (C Gandolfo) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Taufan Boy: Decent effort at Ascot last time to upset the odds laid on Estate Agent. Previously a winner on that course in testing ground before his 2nd to Falmouth Bay at Wincanton (8lb higher mark today).
Gone For A Burton: Has the services of Joe Tizzard and fit from the Flat. 3rd to No Pattern at Windsor on latest hurdles start and no certainty to stay this longer trip
Bramblehill Duke: Formerly with David Nicholson (won bumper at Haydock) and twice a winner for new connections. Can be expected to shine now that he is over a longer trip
Filscot: Winning bumper gelding and won maiden hurdle at Huntingdon on final start last term. Should be fitter for the comeback run at Sandown (7th to Myosotis)
Shadiann: Luca Cumani-trained on the Flat and on the upgrade judged on his 9-length win from Windy Valley over 2m3f at Hereford last week. Bound to go close
Reward: Ran out on bend at Taunton on final start last term. Hard to fancy on form but stable in fine form
Ezanak: Unraced for almost two years after showing some promise in novices. Stable can get them ready after a layoff
Laughing Fontaine: Failed to take to fences last season and a well beaten 5th to Myosotis at Sandown over hurdles last time. Only win (chase) gained on this course
Stray Harmony: Decent seasonal effort when 2nd to Dutch Dyane in mares race over similar trip at Leicester, but runs off 10lb higher mark today
Lime Street Blues: Still without a jumping win from 21 starts and out of the handicap
Sovereign: Has little hope after 15 attempts (9th of 13 to Rake Hey at Kempton last time)

VERDICT: Taufan Boy makes a quick reappearance after beating hot favourite Estate Agent at Ascot and the plus for him is that winning rider Barry Kenny is again in the saddle. But the four-year-old SHADIANN gets plenty of weight and must take all the holding after running away with a similar race at Hereford. An ex-inmate of Luca Cumani's, Shadiann was Hobdayed during the summer and looks worth following.

3.30 FRESHMAN'S NOVICE HURDLE (*CLASS C*) *£5,500* added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,003

1 0-160 BOLD KING (FR) (13) (J J Sullivan) Mrs L Jewell 11 3 .... T Peoples (7)
2 2122 OUT'N'ABOUT (20) (D) (E Gutner & M Krysztofiak Racing) P Nicholls 11 3 .... J Tizzard
3 03P-11 TRALUIDE (FR) (88) (T S M Cunningham) M Pipe 11 3 .... T J Murphy
4 APPYABO (F32) (M G Quinn) M Quinn 10 12 .... L Harvey
5 0 BROOKSIE (13) (R M Carson) R Carson 10 12 .... M Ahern
6 GENIUS (F58) (Normandy Developments (London)) S Dow 10 12 .... M A Fitzgerald
7 0 KING PRIAM (F25) (BF) (Ian Puddle) M Polglase 10 12 .... J R Kavanagh B
8 1 MOTHERS HELP (13) (D) (Berkshire Components) O Williams 10 12 .... R Dunwoody
9 MUFEED (F404) (Mrs Merrick Francis) M Francis 10 12 .... M Richards
10 PENDOGGETT (Mrs M E Slade) D Elsworth 10 12 .... G Bradley
11 REDEMPTION (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 10 12 .... C Llewellyn
12 62 SHERGANZAR (17) (A Solomou) O Sherwood 10 12 .... J Osborne B
13 TABERNACLE (F150) (M Myers) C Mann 10 12 .... J Magee
14 TOMMY CARSON (F35) (DGH Partnership) D Elsworth 10 12 .... P Holley

– 14 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Sherganzar, 100-30 Traluide, 7-2 Out'N'About, 5-1 Mothers Help, 8-1 Tommy Carson, 10-1 King Priam, Redemption, 12-1 Tabernacle, 16-1 Bold King, Pendoggett, Mufeed, Genius, 33-1 Brooksie, 50-1 Appyabo
1997: Rainwatch 10 12 A P McCoy 2-5 fav (M Pipe) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bold King: Winner on the Flat and over hurdles in France and probably needed run when 7th to Mothers Help at Windsor (faded from two out)
Out'N'About: Fast-ground winner of weak Ludlow hurdle and has met two decent types in Dangerous Precedent (Ascot) and Navarre Samson (Sandown) since. Leading chance
Traluide: Hurdles winner at Auteuil and at Fontwell on first run for Martin Pipe in August. Fully stretched to beat Espresso on the fast ground and now on a better surface after the lay-off
Appyabo: Maiden on the Flat including on the AW and hard to fancy
Brooksie: Moderate on the level and tailed off behind Mothers Help at Windsor
Genius: Twice a winner over 1m on Lingfield's Equitrack but not so good on turf. Looks best watched on jumping debut
King Priam: Won claimer on level for *Martin Pipe* when blinkered but jumped poorly on hurdles debut when favourite and unplaced to Navarre Samson at Worcester. Refitting of blinkers can only be a help
Mothers Help: Maiden on level for Henry Candy but a 16-1 winner from Wave Rock at Windsor on hurdles debut. Can improve further and Richard Dunwoody booked
Mufeed: Shirley Heights gelding and full brother to middle distance winner Fragrant Hill. One run in French provinces on Flat. Worth noting in the betting
Pendoggett: Alleged colt out of Shareef Dancer mare. Unraced on Flat but interesting with Graham Bradley booked (stable also runs Tommy Carson)
Redemption: Sanglamore gelding from a strong stable so holds every hope on hurdles debut
Sherganzar: *Richard Hannon maiden on the Flat and better showing on second hurdles* start when blinkered on this course, 2nd to the very smart Katarino. Has leading chance
Tabernacle: Highly tried in two maidens on the Flat for Roger Charlton. Has not raced for five months but still a lively outsider
Tommy Carson: Lightly raced on the level with promise shown here in 3rd to Shamawan over ten furlongs. Stable does well with their juvenile hurdlers

VERDICT: With nothing of the calibre of Katarino in the field SHERGANZAR has an obvious chance after his better showing in the blinkers against Nicky Henderson's ace on this course. Out'N'About takes a drop in class but may just want a longer trip, but Traluide has the winning habit and is the representative of Martin Pipe, who introduced Rainwatch in this race last year. David Elsworth does well with his juvenile hurdlers and both his runners, *Tommy Carson and Pendogget*, are worth noting for market interest.

CHARITY PLACEPOT PERM

Celebrating 21 years of the Placepot, the Tote are giving *The Independent* a £24 charity Placepot bet each day this week. Hyperion's selections (racecard number in brackets) are:

Newbury 1.00
(2) Dalcassian King
(3) Door To Door
1.30
(1) Village King
(4) Zander
2.00
(5) Jibber The Kibber
(8) Mr Strong Gale
2.30
(5) Serenus
(8) Bold Gait
3.00
(5) Shadiann
(8) Laughing Fontaine
3.30
(10) Pendoggett
(12) Sherganzar
(14) Tommy Carson

2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 x 3 selections = 96 bets at 25p per line. Stake: £24.00.

RACING RESULTS

UTTOXETER
Going: Good to Soft

12.45: (2m novice hurdle).
1. SPORADIC MISSILE ...A Maguire 5-1
2. Dunston Bill ....R Massey 25-1
3. Westerton ....E Callaghan 12-1
Also: 5-2 fav Gold Ment, 4-1 Forever Noble (did not finish), 13-2 Aginor (did not finish), 14-1 *Lettyfak (6th)*, 16-1 *River Captain* (4th), Scarrots (did not finish), Tipperary Sunset, 25-1 Albert The Bear, 33-1 American Style, 50-1 College Don (did not finish), Molinsburn, Montone, 66-1 Isit Izzy (5th).
16 ran. 1¼, 14, ½, 4, ¾. (*Winner bay filly by Un Desperado out of Connaught Lace,* trained by G Hourigan at Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland, for Risen Sun Syndicate). Tote: £5.70; £2.40, £11.50, £2.80. DF: £226.10. CSF: £119.55. NR: Jungli, Swan Island.

1.15: (*2m 4f handicap chase*).
1. CARLINGFORD GALE R Thornton 3-1
2. Tejano Gold ....N Williamson 4-1
3. Come On Penny ....S Wynne 15-8 fav
Also: 7-2 Sierra Bay (pulled up), 10-1 Calleva Star (fell).
6 ran. 18, 12. (*Winner chestnut mare by Carlingford Castle out of Vul Gale,* trained by T George at Stroud for *Mr & Mrs Gamble*). Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £1.70. DF: £7.60. CSF: £13.60.

1.45: (2m selling handicap hurdle)
1. BARTON SCAMP ....Edgar Byrne 11-1
2. Oakbury ....T Siddall 8-1
3. Lofty Deed ....F Kenny 33-1
Also: 9-2 fav Stretching (4th), 11-2 Lightning Rebel, 6-1 Northern Nation, 7-1 Lear Dancer (6th), 8-1 Almerjam, 12-1 Astral Invasion (5th), King Of Babylon, 14-1 Gorby's Myth (pulled up), 16-1 Ho-Joe, 50-1 To Darn Hot (pulled up), Verro.
14 ran. 3½, 2½, 3½, 2, 7. (*Winner chestnut gelding by Sadeem out of Hachimitsu,* trained by O Williams at Newbury for Miss B W Palmer). Tote: £11.70; £2.40, £3.10, £9.10. DF: £34.20. CSF: £91.28. Tricast: £2,588.91.

2.15: (2m novice chase)
1. KADOU NONANTAIS ....J A McCarthy 2-9 fav
2. Verywell ....T Reed 25-1
3. Bigsound ....N Williamson 9-2
Also: 33-1 Torian (fell).
4 ran. 20, 25. (*Winner bay gelding by Cadoudal out of Belle Nonantaise,* trained by O Sherwood at Lambourn for D & G Mercer). Tote: win £1.30. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.04.

2.45: (2m 3yo juvenile novice hurdle)
1. CROKER ....A Maguire 11-10 fav
2. Legend of Love ....B Powell 10-1
3. Sentry Duty ....*R Thornton 25-1*
Also: 7-2 Lambrini Lad (6th), 12-1 Helenes Hill (4th). Smooth Princess (fell), 14-1 Safi (pulled up), 20-1 Lawyer's Dream, Moonstone, Trakelor (5th), 33-1 Horizontal.
11 ran. 5, 1, 9, 7, 5. (*Winner chestnut gelding by Rainbows For Life out of Almagest,* trained by O Nicholson at Temple Guiting for *Million in Mind Partnership*). Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.20, £3.60. DF: £5.80. CSF: £11.53.

3.15: (2m 7f handicap chase)
1. BETTY'S BOY ....N Williamson 6-1
2. Organ Recital ....M Brennan 11-4 fav
3. Burnt Imp ....J Callaghan 11-2
Also: 100-30 Lord of The West (pulled up), 7-1 Brighter Shade (4th), In Truth (pulled up), 8-1 Berude Not To (pulled up), 20-1 Bayline Star (6th), 33-1 Claverhouse (5th).
9 ran. 1½, 2½, 14, dist, 1½. (*Winner bay gelding by Cataldi out of Decent Lady, trained* by K Bailey at Upper Lambourn for T Benfield and W Brown). Tote: £9.90; £2.10, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £16.30. CSF: £29.80. Tricast: £124.08. Tote Trifecta: £266.90.

3.46: (2m handicap hurdle)
1. LORD RICHFIELD ....X Aizpuru 14-1
2. Samanid ....T Siddall 6-1
3. Country Orchid ....M H Naughton 11-2
Also: 5-1 fav Saint Ciel, 11-2 Monica's Choice (5th), 7-1 Coral Island, 8-1 New Inn, 10-1 Winn's Pride, 11-1 King Of Thieves (6th), 14-1 Tonnerre, 16-1 Nessun Doro (4th).
11 ran. ½, ½, hd, 3½, 1½. (*Winner bay gelding by Kirmann out of Lady Gaego,* trained by S Brookshaw at Uffington for M W Harris). Tote: £20.60; £4.60, £2.80, £2.80. DF: £59.80. CSF: £80.29. Tricast: £484.00. NR: Stage Pass.
Placepot: £249.30. Quadpot: £23.30.
Place 6: £221.08. Place 5: £53.77.

CARLISLE
Going: Heavy

1.00: 1. BAWARA (R Supple) 7-2 jt fav; 2. My Saltarello 7-2 jt fav; 3. Western Chief 8-1. 10 ran. 3, 9. (L Lungo, Carrutherstown). Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £9.80. CSF £15.49. Tricast: £66.54. NR: Oriel Lad.

1.35: 1. SCOTIA NOSTRA (R McGrath) 4-5 fav; 2. Menshaar 4-1; 3. Buffs Boy 8-1. 7 ran. 1¼, 30. (J J O'Neill, Penrith). Tote: £2.00; £2.00, £1.70. DF: £2.90. CSF: £3.85.

2.05: 1. OWTABEATIM (B Harding) 12-1; 2. Gus Berry 12-1; 3. Flighty Leader 10-1. 15 ran. 4-1 fav Mister Sandrovitch (5th). 7, 5. (R Woodhouse, York). Tote: £18.90; £4.90, £5.70, £2.30. DF: £168.90. CSF: £134.47. NR: Lanacar Lane.

2.35: 1. BLUE IRISH (L Wyer) 13-8 fav; 2. Peter 7-1; 3. Titan Thai 12-1. 5 ran. 6, 2½. (Mrs S Bramall, Thirsk). Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £2.30. DF: £8.20. CSF: £11.08.

3.05: 1. MARY'S FEELINGS (B Harding) 5-1; 2. Fair And Fancy 7-2 fav; 3. My Shenandoah 4-1. 6 ran. 5, hd. (M Hammond, Middleham). Tote: £5.40; £2.70, £1.90. DF: £5.30. CSF: £18.17.

3.35: 1. BOSTON MAN (Mr E Babington) 11-2; 2. Hag's Way 20-1; 3. Wicklow Way 7-2. 10 ran. 3-1 fav Hurst Flyer (4th). 27, 2½. (R Woodhouse, York). Tote: £12.70; £4.20, £4.80, £1.70. DF: £170.60. CSF: £97.45. Tricast: £412.21.
Placepot: £80.20. Quadpot: £58.00.
Place 6: £107.67. Place 5: £64.17.

TAUNTON
Going: Heavy

1.25: 1. MERSEY BEAT (M Batchelor) 3-1; 2. Davoski 5-2 fav; 3. Faru 8-1. 13 ran. ½, 4. (G L Moore). Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £2.80. CSF: £9.75. Tricast: £50.48.

1.55: 1. THE ROBE (W Marston) 6-1; 2. Ballykissann 16-1; 3. Hi Rudolf 16-1. 11 ran. 9-4 fav Dancing Al (did not finish). 12, 1¼. (A Carroll). Tote: £5.70; £1.90, £3.30, £2.80. DF: £19.80. CSF: £82.70.

2.25: 1. COUNTRY BEAU (*M A Fitzgerald*) 6-4 fav; 2. Connaught Cracker 5-2; 3. Nahrawali 9-4. 10 ran. 16, 8. (J King). Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.23.

2.55: 1. ALHOSAAM (R Johnson) 3-1 fav; 2. *Laurel Seeker* 100-30; 3. *Miracle Kid* 8-1. 12 ran. 8, 1½. (G L Moore). Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £1.30, £2.00. DF: £4.70. CSF: £12.28. NR: Prince Of India, Sweet Symphony.

3.25: 1. JEFFERIES (M A Fitzgerald) 5-4 fav; 2. Spring Gale 7-1; 3. Qualitair Memory 40-1. 10 ran. 5, 3. (J Old). Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £1.90, £3.70. DF: £9.60. CSF: £12.03. Tricast: £275.99. NR: Oliver Duckett.

3.55: 1. HARRY (R Dunwoody) 6-4 fav; 2. Paulton 12-1; 3. Canto 12-1. 10 ran. 5, ½. (P Hobbs). Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.50, £2.80. DF £15.20. CSF. £16.88. Tricast. £129.84.
Jackpot: £5,443.90.
Placepot: £81.00. Quadpot: £6.00.
Place 6: £32.07. Place 5: £22.73.

■ Seven jockeys walked away relatively injury free from a pile-up in the selling hurdle at Taunton yesterday. Ivory Charm attempted to refuse at the third hurdle and unshipped Daragh O'Driscoll before falling. Six of the runners then crashed into the prostrate filly. The main casualty was Jim Culloty, rider of Private Seal. He faces time on the sidelines with a bruised hip.

BANGOR

HYPERION

1.20 Barley Meadow 1.50 Lagen Bridge 2.20 Northern Maestro (nb) *2.50 WELSH MARCH* (nap) 3.20 Out By Night 3.50 Professor Cool

GOING: Chase course - Soft (Good to Soft in places); hurdle course - Good (Good to Soft in places).
■ *Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds.*
■ Course is 4m SE of Wrexham near junction of A525 and B5069. Bus service from Wrexham station. ADMISSION: Paddock £10; Course £5 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: O Nicholson 13-52 (25%), N Twiston-Davies *12-64 (18.8%), Mrs S Smith 9-76 (11.8%), P Hobbs 8-31 (25.8%).*
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 18-69 (26.1%), A P McCoy 14-60 (23.3%), A Maguire 12-48 (25%), C Llewellyn 12-70 (17.1%).
■ FAVOURITES: 152 wins in 419 races (36.3%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.20 EYTON SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 1f

1 451-25 MEG'S MEMORY (21) (D) A Streeter 5 11 7 .... R Johnson
2 214161 BARLEY MEADOW (16) R Ford 8 11 5 .... N Horrocks (5) V
3 5/ *ALLEZ CYRANO (590) D Burchell 7 10 12* .... *D J Burchell*
4 DANCING LAWYER (F37) B Ellison 7 10 12 .... L Temple (7)
5 050-03 FEARLESS WONDER (16) (D) R Lee 7 10 12 .. Miss K Di Marte (7)
6 0/00- MAGNUS MAXIMUS (342) Mrs S Lamyman 6 10 12 R Farrant
7 0/FFP- MONSIEUR PINK (304) A Streeter 6 10 12 .... J Goldstein (5)
8 46F PALISANDER (98) R Ford 4 10 12 .... R McGrath
9 -52R06 PRUSSIA (6) W Clay 7 10 12 .... S Wynne
10 POOP-P TWO LORDS (30) M Tate 6 10 12 .... T Jenks
11 /33-55 ABSOLUTE PROOF (11) W G M Turner 5 10 7 .... J Power (7)

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Prussia, 7-2 Meg's Memory, 4-1 Barley Meadow, 7-1 Absolute Proof, Dancing Lawyer, Fearless Wonder, 16-1 Palisander, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A poor seller, making no appeal for betting. With recent winner Barley Meadow having more *to* do in this non-handicap, *the vote goes to MEG'S MEMORY, who should appreciate* the return to 2m1f and has a solid form claim.

1.50 MALISE NICOLSON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds

1 5-212U SHORE PARTY (14) (D) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 5 .... C Maude
2 211-24 CHEROKEE BOY (9) (D) B Ryall 8 10 12 .... R Johnson
3 U12/PF LAGEN BRIDGE (13) (D) D Moffatt 6 10 12 .... D J Moffatt
4 4406/2 LOTHIAN COMMANDER (22) D McCain 6 10 12 .... S Wynne
5 30P-P5 LUNAR DANCER (8) P Dalton 6 10 12 .... Mr R Forristal (7)
6 P0P-F0 DONNRUA (9) (D) F Jordan 7 10 7 .... R Massey (3)

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 8-11 Shore Party, 3-1 Cherokee Boy, 9-2 Lagen Bridge, 8-1 Lothian Commander, 50-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A dodgy novices' chase, with Shore Party looking one to be wary of over fences. LAGEN BRIDGE is not a great deal more convincing, having twice failed to complete this season, but he was a very useful novice hurdler in his day, and would have *returned a respectable effort* but for falling at Ayr last time.

2.20 TOTE PLACEPOT 21ST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £4,000 2m 1f

1 1201-3 TOTALLY YOURS (24) (D) F Jordan 5 11 13 .... B Fenton B
2 45-536 NOBLE COLOURS (31) (D) S Griffiths 5 11 8 .... M Griffiths (5)
3 34635/ HARDING (751) S Mellor 7 11 5 .... C Webb
4 -52334 DISTANT STORM (18) (D) B Llewellyn 5 11 2 .. Miss E J Jones B
5 124-F0 EBEN AL HABEEB (6) (CD) D McCain 7 10 6 .... S Wynne
6 0-0041 NORTHERN MAESTRO (8) (D) J Mackie 4 10 5 (7ex) .... J Goldstein (5) V
7 5010-2 ROYAL THEN (FR) (57) J Neville 5 10 3 .... R Johnson V
8 1/35-0 MUIZENBERG (48) (D) E Owen Jun 11 10 0 .... T Eley
9 0612/4 PHARLY REEF (20) D Burchell 8 10 0 .... D J Burchell

– 9 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Pharly Reef 8st 11lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Northern Maestro, 3-1 Royal Then, 6-1 Totally Yours, 8-1 Distant Storm, Eben Al Habeeb, 8-1 Noble Colours, Pharly Reef, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Good reasons will be needed to oppose NORTHERN MAESTRO here, after a smooth success last time, albeit in a Warwick seller over a longer trip. The gelding ran well off higher marks for Mary Reveley last season and should have the pace to cope with the drop in distance.

2.50 MORRIS NICHOLSON CARTWRIGHT H'CAP CHASE (C) £7,000 2m 4f 110yds

1 1141/ NOYAN (583) (D) K Ryan 8 12 0 .... R Thornton
2 /342F- EVEN BLUE (273) (CD) (BF) Mrs C Black 10 11 2 .... S Wynne
3 3U2-12 CHEROKEE CHIEF (17) (BF) O Sherwood 7 10 11 .. J A McCarthy
4 112-2F WELSH MARCH (12) (BF) G M Moore 6 10 8 .... R Johnson
5 34333- SISTER ROSZA (273) (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 10 10 4 .. R Farrant
6 55P-3F LOBSTER COTTAGE (26) K Bailey 10 10 2 .... R Wakley (3)

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Welsh March, 2-1 Cherokee Chief, 11-2 Even Blue, 7-1 Sister Rosza, 10-1 Noyan, 12-1 *Lobster Cottage*

FORM VERDICT

A difficult choice between Cherokee Chief and WELSH MARCH here, with the latter getting the vote in the hope that the extra distance suits. An unlucky last-fence faller at Ayr last time, he still appeals as a progressive horse best kept on the right side.

3.20 LLANARMON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) £5,000 2m 4f 110yds

1 424-03 NASAYER (21) N Mason 6 11 10 .... R Guest
2 220-34 MURRAY'S MILLION (20) J Smith 6 11 8 .... W Marston
3 0U2-3F OUT BY NIGHT (12) (BF) G M Moore 7 11 4 .... J Callaghan
4 /226-U TREMALLT (10) T George 7 11 0 .... T Jenks
5 543324 *FOLLOW DE CALL (36) (C) D McCain 8 10 11* .... S Wynne
6 PPPP-3 ALICAT (78) N Babbage 7 10 0 .... B Fenton

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Out By Night, 11-4 Tremallt, 7-2 Follow De Call, 4-1 Nasayer, 6-1 Murray's Million, 33-1 Alicat

FORM VERDICT

Out By Night and TREMALLT fell some way out when going well last time, but the latter has more scope for improvement.

3.50 RIDGWAY 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f

1 0P6- ALTHREY CAPTAIN (364) W Clay 6 10 12 .... S Wynne
2 4022-P ARTIC GROUND (13) P Webber 6 10 12 .... R Garritty
3 00-3 BLACK BULLET (NZ) (22) A Streeter 5 10 12 .... T Eley
4 4/21-5 BOMBADIL (21) Mrs S Lamyman 6 10 12 .... R Farrant
5 00- CONSTANT HUSBAND (216) R N Bevis 5 10 12 .... J Culloty
6 00-4 FIT TO BUST (22) N Babbage 5 10 12 .... B Fenton
7 2P/4- GENTRY (536) (BF) D McCain 7 10 12 .... B Harding
8 224-F4 PERCY PARKEEPER (16) (D) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 12 .... C Maude
9 3-22 POWDER HOUND (20) (BF) I Williams 5 10 12 .... R Wakley (3)
10 10-3 PROFESSOR COOL (8) J Mackie 5 10 12 .... E Husband
11 D23-3P GLACIAL MISSILE (12) P Bowen 5 10 7 .... W Marston
12 000/ *SINGING SCALLY (998)* W Clay 7 10 7 .... G Lee

– 12 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Powder Hound, 9-4 Percy Parkeeper, 4-1 Professor Cool, 8-1 Black Bullet, 10-1 Gentry, Artic Ground, 14-1 Bombadil, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

The jumping of Percy Parkeeper gives cause for concern, as does Powder Hound's temperament, allowing preference for PROFESSOR COOL, who shaped well on his hurdling debut.

JP Vio 1550

Rugby Union: The England captain looks for an improved performance against the strength of the Wallabies

Adventure is the battle cry for Dallaglio

BY CHRIS HEWETT
Rugby Correspondent

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO wants England to play "multi-phase rugby" against Australia at Twickenham tomorrow. While his team did precisely that at Huddersfield last weekend – one phase in the first half, another in the second – the returning captain clearly has something more adventurous in mind. The performance against Italy, which very nearly degenerated into defeat, was both conservative in conception and cumbersome in execution and it is worrying that England should be so dependant on a single loose forward to inject some zip into their game plan.

Still, Dallaglio's recovery from the knee injury that sidelined him throughout the brief World Cup qualifying tournament at least gives England an even-money chance of playing at the required tempo. "I firmly believe it is within our capabilities to match the pace and intensity the Wallabies are sure to bring to the party, but we're not accustomed to playing at that level and we know we're about to be tested to the limit," said the Wasps flanker yesterday. "We're well aware of the enormity of the task but the real pressure comes from within the squad. As a team we expect to do better than against Italy."

It would be quite an achievement to play any worse and Dallaglio knows that on current evidence England cannot be described as credible challengers for next year's World Cup. "We're fifth or sixth favourites at best for that tournament," he said bluntly. "I'm not changing my opinion on the subject until our results suggest otherwise."

A victory tomorrow would do just that, but the Wallabies are hugely motivated for the last act of an exhausting campaign that has covered Super 12, Tri-Nations and Bledisloe Cup rugby, as well as World Cup qualifying business against the big-hit specialists from Western Samoa, Fiji and Tonga.

"Of course we could do with a rest," agreed Rod Macqueen, their coach. "But England at Twickenham is a big number for any rugby team. We're right up for this one, I promise you."

So up for it that Bob Dwyer, a celebrated predecessor of Macqueen's who coached Nick Farr-Jones' vintage outfit to World Cup glory over England at Twickenham in 1991, believes his countrymen will register a comfortable victory, albeit narrower than the 76-0 shellacking in Brisbane last June. "Australia will have too much pace, power and precision for England, particularly in the backs," said Dwyer.

"From England's viewpoint, this is a game they really have to win, or at least get close to winning, because Australia are at the end of a very long season and have travelled without some top players. Having said that, though, I watched the Wallabies train on Wednesday and they are looking better than South Africa. England are going to have to make all their tackles, that's for sure."

Whatever unfolds, English rugby will not descend to the bottom of the European pile. The Scots have beaten them to it, thanks to the continuing political turmoil enveloping the hierarchy at Murrayfield. Andy Irvine and John Jeffrey were close to severing their links with the governing body yesterday, the former by giving up the chairmanship of the International Game Board and the latter by stepping down as a selector and district representative.

Duncan Paterson, whose presidency of the Scottish Rugby Union has met with almost universal condemnation over the last fortnight, announced on Wednesday night that, while he intended to step down, he would do so only at the "appropriate time". His enthusiasm for the super-district initiative, under which all leading home-based players were contracted to either Glasgow Caledonians or Edinburgh Reivers, has left large numbers of former internationals mourning what they consider to be the collapse of the domestic game north of the border.

Not that the English are free of domestic problems. The refusal of the leading Premiership clubs to release players for the Hong Kong Sevens in March has forced the Rugby Football Union into declining the organisers' invitation to send a national team to the most famous short-game tournament in the calendar.

Baron cracking whip over Herculean task

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

FRANCIS BARON'S remit to turn things around at Twickenham and transform the Rugby Football Union into an efficient multi-million point plc reads like the labours of Hercules. Six weeks into his role as Twickenham's first chief executive, Baron is about to suggest cuts, further cuts and a more realistic approach in its relations at international and club level.

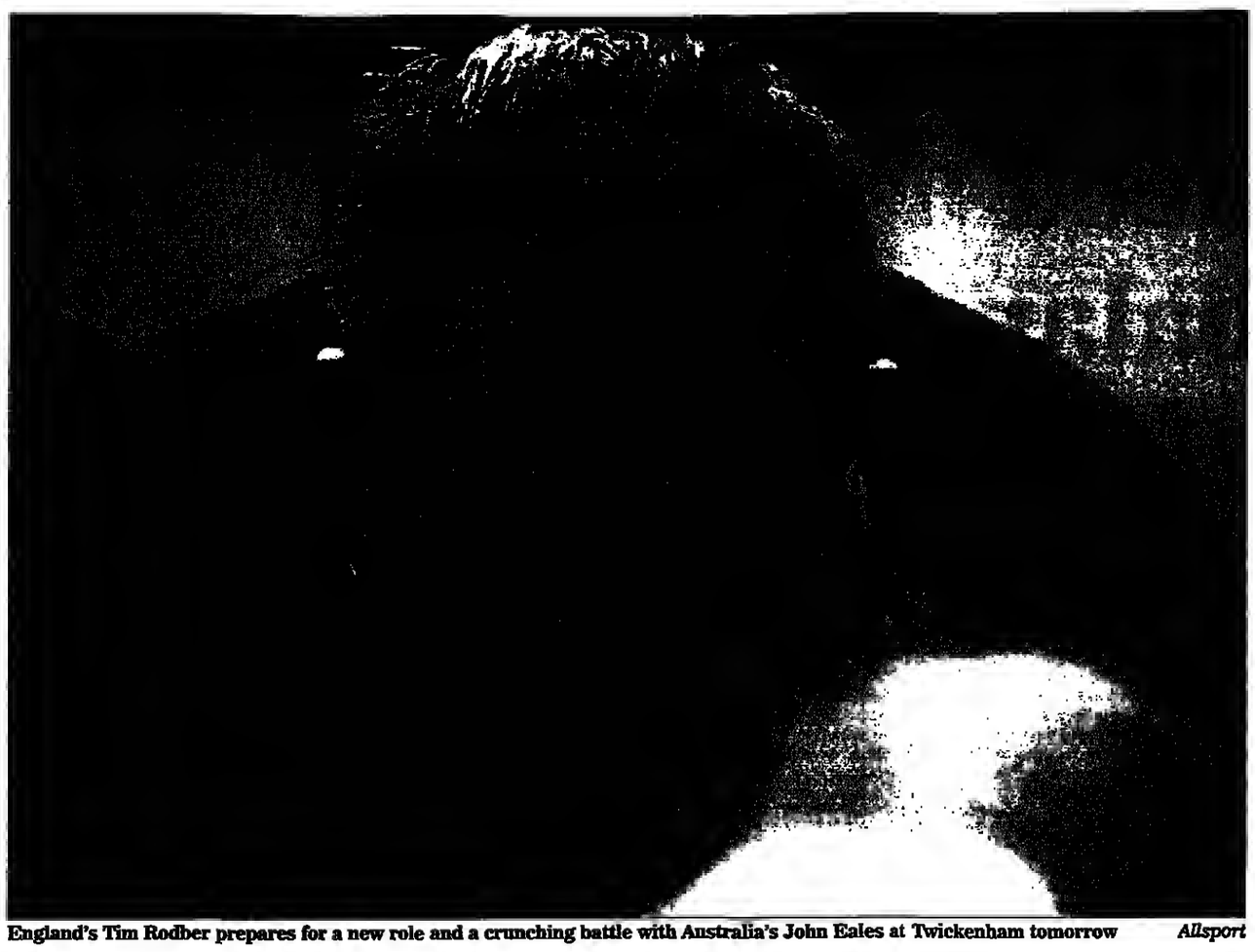
He is also bracing himself to do battle with the International Rugby Board (IB) as well as tackling the sensitive relationship with the clubs as the two sides try to find common ground for a structured season. He wants to generate more revenue, and the plans include staging classical concerts and other big sporting events at Twickenham and possibly England football internationals; that will mean taking on the local council, not to mention the residents.

The clubs are first up when a meeting of English Rugby Partnership takes place today. "Progress has been good," said Baron, 52, who spent seven years on the board of Yorkshire Television and was a pioneer of cable and satellite broadcasting as the managing director of WH Smith's television and media division. "But I would like the pace to pick up a bit." To that end he wants both sides to agree a mutually satisfactory deadline. And he would like it to be early in the New Year.

Next comes the IB. The RFU has been summoned to a disciplinary hearing in Dublin on 17 December at which it has to defend its actions in not preventing the top English clubs from taking the IB to European Court over the European Cup, as well as allowing the Premiership sides to play unofficial matches against Welsh outcasts Cardiff and Swansea.

There remains potentially the trickiest one of all. Baron has concluded that the RFU is unwieldy and inefficient. Twickenham is leaking money, £10m in the last two years and a projected £1.5m (so far) in this accounting period. But the 57-man council appointed him for just this sort of analysis.

Baron is going to recommend that some of the unwieldy committee structure be unravelled (in addition to the council there is the smaller management board and a raft of committees). He wants some of these last to be jettisoned but also wants cuts. "The message I am getting across to everyone is that change is upon us," he said. "The administration is ineffective. It needs to be streamlined. There are painful decisions, difficult decisions, but I am prepared to make them."



England's Tim Rodber prepares for a new role and a crunching battle with Australia's John Eales at Twickenham tomorrow *Allsport*

Reborn Rodber is ready to rumble in the dark zone

He has had to endure four years of sporting purgatory, but a move from No 8 to second row may just be the making of him. By Chris Hewett

IF TIM RODBER times his line-out jumping as poorly as he has timed his injuries over the last 18 months, those super-elastic athletes in the Australian second row will require nothing more strenuous than an early morning stretch to dominate possession at Twickenham tomorrow. Three hamstring strains, one bout of concussion and an excruciating rearrangement of the ligaments in Rodber's right knee threatened to wreck the ambitions of a player whose occasional visits to the sunlit uplands had already been overshadowed by regular descents into sporting purgatory.

Fully fit again after months of anguish and self-doubt, he is by no means out of the woods. As any right-thinking loose forward will confirm – and Rodber earned his corn as a No 8 or blind-side flanker for a full decade – there are few prospects more purgatorial than a career switch to the second row, where the shoulders always ache, the ears mutate instantly into cauliflowers and the nostrils are perpetually irritated by their proximity to the rear ends of a prop on one side and a hooker on the other. Forget sport as enjoyment. This is sport as torture. Only General Pinochet could love it. And yet, Rodber's switch from loose to tight may be the final making of him.

If Captain Tim (a captain in the Green Howards as well as the captain of Northampton) can emulate Fabien Pelous, of France, and South Africa's Andre Venter by successfully adapting to life in the darkened recesses of scrum, ruck and maul, he will give the English heavy mob the kind of footballing dimension Clive Woodward spends his nights dreaming about. What is more, he will rid himself of his reputation as an arch-flatterer of the deceptive variety.

Anyone judging Rodber exclusively on the basis of 80 golden minutes against the Springboks in Pretoria in June 1994 would unhesitatingly rank him among the great loose forwards of this or any other era. But 80 minutes do not add up to a career, however often you recall the shuddering, muscular forays that rocked Loftus Versfeld to its very foundations. For all his physical gifts – 6ft 6in, 17 stones, brick hard and seriously rapid – Rodber has been more out than in these last four years or so. To the extent, indeed, that senior southern hemisphere coaches have been known to question his "ticker".

"I've been criticised most often in the past for not putting in the full 80 minutes, for disappearing during games," agreed the 29-year-old Yorkshireman this week. "I don't necessarily think all that criticism is justified; as a loose forward, you tend to pick and choose your moments, to give it 100 per cent in short bursts in order to maximise your impact. But we'll see about the 80-minute thing at Twickenham, won't we? Second-row forwards have to grind out the effort over much longer periods. It's 90 per cent dog from first whistle to last. I understand what is expected of me and I'm confident of delivering.

"It's a big change, of course; not just a change in technique but a change in mindset, in the whole way I think about the game. But the bridge is not quite as uncrossable as some people assume. More and more, coaches are moving away from the tight-five back-row theory and looking to go four and four: that is to say, boost the loose-forward capacity by playing a second row who can contribute a flanker's tackle count and play a bit of ball as well as perform the traditional duties in the scrum, line-out and restart areas. As a No 8, my tackle count used to be up around the dozen mark. As a second row at Northampton, I've been matching that figure."

So far, so hunky-dory. But tractoring up and down the channels at Franklins Gardens is a very different proposition to spending a Test match in the close company of John Anthony Eales of Queensland, Australia, and the Rugby Heaven XV. Rodber has yet to start an international in his new position; his recent part-time engagements at Huddersfield were against the Dutch, whose locks had more in common with Julie Andrews than Mark Andrews, and the Italians, against whom he was not a conspicuous success. Eales, on the other hand, is the finest second row in the world. An interesting one, eh?

"He's a great player, Eales," Rodber acknowledged. "He's right up there with the best of all time. But if you can't bring yourself to relish a challenge like this, why play at all? I've been an international player since 1992, I've got 34 England caps and I've played two Tests for the Lions against the Springboks that must be among the biggest games anyone has ever experienced.

"Basically, I've been around a fair while and picked up some know-how along the way. I've got good people around me, too: Martin Johnson, Jason Leonard, real big-leaguers. I think we'll make a go of it.

"This is precisely the opportunity I've been looking for because there have been times in my career when I've wondered whether it might all be slipping away. Back in 1996, Jack Rowell cut me to ribbons and told me I wasn't anywhere near as good as I thought I was and, even though Ian McGeechan picked me for the Lions tour the following summer, that run of injuries prevented me building on what I'd achieved in South Africa. The worst spell was earlier this year, when I mangled my knee ligaments just before the Cup semi-final. That was a real low and when you've been down there, you learn to grab every new chance with both hands.

"The good thing about this England management is their communication. Even though I couldn't tour down south in the summer, Clive stayed in touch, kept talking to me, kept reminding me of the things he wanted me to do. I trained hard, moved into the second row at club level and got myself noticed. When I got on as a replacement against Holland in the first of the World Cup qualifiers, it was like winning a first cap all over again."

Compared with Eales, who is fast closing in on Willie John McBride as the most-capped lock in rugby history, Rodber is indeed a novice. But he is a novice with a past as well as a future. If England's great under-achiever brings back memories of Pretoria '94 this afternoon, Eales will at least know he has been in a game.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION

12.10 Satwa Boulevard 12.40 Sharbadarid 1.10 Present Situation 1.40 Tapage 2.10 Nozomi 2.40 Soaked 3.10 Tumbleweed Hero 3.40 Memory'R Music

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: 1m – outside; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 140yd.
■ Equitrack course; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
■ Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £13, Family Enclosure £10. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 89-693 (12.8%), M Johnston 53-301 (17.6%), R Hannon 52-398 (13.1%), Lord Huntingdon 46-232 (19.8%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 83-397 (20.9%), A Clark 77-541 (12%), L Dettori 75-331 (22.7%), R Cochrane 69-400 (17.3%).
■ FAVOURITES: 778 wins in 2,334 races (33.3%).
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Sihali (240) sent 264 miles.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lorenzo (visored, 12.10), Madame Chinnery (12.40), Pegasus Bay (visored, 12.40), Walikibi Beach (1.10), Nauplie (1.10), Tumbleweed Hero (3.10), Winning Saint (visored, 3.40).

12.10 CONFERENCE STAGING MAIDEN STAKES (D) (DIV I) £4,000 3YO 1m

1 600000 BIT OF A LAD (28) R Flower 9 0 ..... F Norton 5
2 340056 LORENZO (7) K Mahdi 9 0 ..... J Tate 4 V
3 6-4306 RITUAL (126) S Dow 9 0 ..... P Fessey 2
4 0 RUSHED (225) G Enright 8 0 ..... S Whitworth 8
5 0000-0 JONATHAN'S GIRL (10) J Bridger 8 9 ..... G Bardwell 6
6 0- KING'S MISTRESS (445) D O'Brien 8 9 ..... R Palmer 1
7 -25040 MISS SCOOTER (J13) M Muggeridge 8 9 ..... R Price 0
8 000603 SATWA BOULEVARD (7) M Channon 8 9 ..... A Culhane 3
9 0 WICHITA (140) B Gubby 8 9 ..... J Quinn 8
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Ritual, 2-1 Satwa Boulevard, 7-1 Lorenzo, 10-1 Rushed, 12-1 Miss Scooter, 25-1 Bit Of A Lad, Wichita, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A weak seller in which SATWA BOULEVARD gets a narrow vote over Ritual. However, both are unproven on the Equitrack and the race makes limited appeal from a betting angle.

12.40 LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV I) £2,500 1m 2f

1 05205 I CAN'T REMEMBER (34) (D) M Pipe 4 9 9 ..... G Faulkner (3) 7
2 400080 SHARBADARID (10) (C) S Dow 4 9 9 ..... P Doe (5) 3 B
3 656500 EASTLEIGH (6) (C) R Hollinshead 9 9 4 ..... Lisa Watson (7) 13
4 -05003 IKRAM BOY (6) A Bailey 4 9 4 ..... J Bosley (7) 5
5 650006 LANCASHIRE LEGEND (11) (C) N Littmoden 5 9 4 ..... P Roberts (3) 12
6 036000 MACARI (34) S Baugh 4 9 4 ..... A Culhane 14
7 240000 MADAME CHINNERY (22) C Weedon 4 9 4 ..... J Tate 1 R
8 642303 PEGASUS BAY (11) (C) (D) O Candillon 7 9 4 ..... G Carter 10 V
9 600060 SAIRD CAY (10) R O'Sullivan 4 9 4 ..... S Whitworth 9
10 030000 FALKENBERG (FR) (J66) B Pearce 3 9 0 ..... F Norton 5
11 0000/- KOORDINATE (J15) R Baker 4 0 13 ..... V Slattery 8
12 000000 HOPPIT (66) P Howling 3 0 9 ..... J Quinn 4
13 262505 LADY ELL (J63) B Smart 3 9 9 ..... R Perham 11
14 400040 MIMEWMEW (41) L A Dace 3 0 9 ..... D Sweeney 2
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 I Can't Remember, 7-2 Pegasus Bay, 7-1 Sharbadarid, Ikram Boy, 10-1 Lancashire Legend, Lady Ell, 12-1 Madame Chinnery, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

I CAN'T REMEMBER stands out on his best turf form (notably a second to The Green Grey) and looks the likely winner if taking to the surface (hampered only start on Fibresand). Pegasus Bay is the obvious threat, though the first-time visor is hardly encouraging.

1.10 LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV II) £2,500 1m 2f

1 1-100 HARPOON LOUIE (159) (C BF) A Vandenbaughen (Bel) 0 9 9 ..... M Serwacka 8
2 030000 WALKIG BEACH (3) (CD) G L Moore 7 9 9 ..... Candy Morris 11 9
3 004000 DIONYS (GER) (34) C Dond (Bel) 4 6 4 ..... A Clark 6
4 640000 MERCURY (7) S Baugh 5 9 4 ..... P Roberts (3) 4
5 500000 NAUPLIE (BEL) (10) J Bridger 4 9 4 ..... S Whitworth 3 B
6 030053 PRESENT SITUATION (53) (C) Lord Huntingdon 7 9 4 ..... Dean McKeown 13
7 000-30 RISCATTO (13) (D) W Muir 4 9 4 ..... T Sprake 12
8 00j200 RODERICK HUDSON (66) J R Poulton 8 9 4 ..... R Hughes 7
9 400000 CATFOOT LANE (37) W G M Turner 3 9 0 ..... M Tebbutt 9
10 446500 LAST KNIGHT (J17) D Arbuthnot 3 9 0 ..... R Price 0
11 20-000 TAEL OF SILVER (5) A Bailey 6 6 13 ..... F Norton 1
12 35-004 CAMPARI (62) (BF) J Pearce 3 9 9 ..... G Bardwell 10
13 000240 SANTAREME (36) P Howling 3 6 9 ..... J Quinn 9
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Present Situation, 6-1 Walkiki Beach, Roderick Hudson, 8-1 Harpoon Louie, 12-1 Campari, 14-1 Mercury, Riscatto, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Despite slight reservations about the trip, the safe choice is PRESENT SITUATION, who has a very consistent record on this surface and has obvious claims.

1.40 ANTIQUE FAIRS AT LINGFIELD NOVICE STAKES (D) £4,000 2YO 7f

1 000021 DAUNTED (15) (C) G L Moore 9 4 ..... M Wigham 3 9
2 60050 DIAMOND GEEZER (34) R Hannon 9 2 ..... P Dobbs (7) 2
3 01 TAPAGE (3) (CD) W Muir 9 0 ..... R Hughes 4
4 026231 CANTGETYOURBREATH (7) B Meehan 0 12 ..... M Tebbutt 1 B
5 602301 GLASTONBURY (10) (CD) P Howling 0 12 ..... J Quinn 7
6 642 TIGER SHARK (13) Lord Huntingdon 6 12 ..... Dean McKeown 5
7 WESTERN COMMAND (GER) Sir M Prescott 9 12 ..... C Nutter 6
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Tiger Shark, 7-2 Tapage, 9-2 Western Command, 11-2 Cantgetyourbreath, 6-1 Daunted, 8-1 Glastonbury, 10-1 Diamond Geezer

FORM VERDICT

TAPAGE created a good impression when winning what looked a decent maiden here earlier in the week from Buona Sera (runs 2.10) and is likely to be hard to beat. Tiger Shark is well up to winning a maiden (at least) following his fine Wolverhampton effort, but he may prove better at 1m and has to prove himself on the surface, too.

2.10 WINTER WARMER CLUB NURSERY HANDICAP (E) £3,750 added 2YO 7f

1 02102 ACHILLES STAR (10) K Burke 9 7 ..... J P Spencer (3) 14
2 000021 VINTAGE PRIDE (22) R Hannon 9 2 ..... R Hughes 12 B
3 3402 BUONA SERA (3) W Muir 8 12 ..... T Sprake 13
4 0610 NOZOMI (41) P Makin 8 11 ..... A Clark 1
5 054 VIOLET (30) Lord Huntingdon 8 9 ..... Dean McKeown 15
0 36000 SWEET COMPLIANCE (75) (D) P Shalespeare 0 8 ..... C Rutter 5 R
7 055300 WEET D THERE (21) R Hollinshead 8 5 ..... A Culhane 9
8 0600 GOLD COAST (113) S Dow 9 1 ..... P Doe (5) 16
9 000 BARON DE PICHON (36) N Littmoden 7 11 ..... J Quinn 7
10 464064 ASCARI (14) P Harris 7 10 ..... G Bardwell 11
11 0000 DUCHESS OF FERRARA (66) A McNae 7 10 ..... J Lowe 2
12 3224 DREAM ON ME (36) (BF) G L Moore 7 10 ..... F Norton 8
13 4060 FANETTA (67) M Tompkins 7 10 ..... N Carlisle 5
14 0400 BLUE PERU (11) B Smart 7 10 ..... P Fessey 4
15 604068 MAGIQUE ETOILE (15) M Muggeridge 7 10 ..... J Tate 3 V
– 15 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Duchess Of Ferrara 7st 8lb, Fanetta 7st 6lb, Blue Peru, Magique Etoile 7st 3lb.
BETTING: 7-2 Achilles Star, 9-2 Vintage Pride, 7-1 Violet, 8-1 Dream On Me, 10-1 Buona Sera, Sweet Compliance, 12-1 Nozomi, Ascari, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

BUONA SERA looks on a decent mark following his recent C&D second to Tapage, whose performance in the 1.40 will be a further guide to his chance. Vintage Pride's Brighton win was given a boost by Bartholomew here on Wednesday, while Achilles Star may prove better at this shorter trip. However, both have their fair share of weight and Nozomi could prove the main danger to the selection if taking to this surface.

2.40 SOUTHRIVER TOOLS 15TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (D) £5,000 added 6f

1 108000 RUZEN (111) (D) B Palling 3 9 12 ..... T Sprake 0
9 154002 ROBO MAGIC (2) (CD) L Montague Hall 0 9 11 ..... J Tate 1
3 01002 SIHAFI (5) (CD) D Nicholls 5 9 9 ..... Alex Greaves 10
4 040021 SOAKED (2) (C) (D) O Chapman 5 9 9 (7ex) ..... A Culhane 2
5 204000 BLUE KITE (11) N Littmoden 3 9 4 ..... P Roberts (3) 11 V
6 114300 RIFFI (41) (C) (D) R Ingram 5 9 4 ..... A Clark 7
7 460100 THATS LIFE (88) (D) T Mills 3 9 1 ..... L Carter 3
8 500002 BUTRINTO (15) (D) J Pearce 4 8 13 ..... M Wigham 6
9 000001 FACILE TIGRE (22) (D) S Dow 3 8 12 ..... P Doe (5) 4
10 630001 AL MABROOK (15) (CD) K Mahdi 3 8 12 ..... J Quinn 14
11 042621 ELLWAY PRINCE (15) (CD) Mrs N Macauley 5 8 11 ..... Dean McKeown 12 V
12 52300 MISS HIT (21) Miss G Kelleway 3 8 0 ..... S Whitworth 13
0 00026 HALF TONE (3) (C) R Flower 0 8 6 ..... F Norton 5 B
14 -00000 DOMULLA (36) (D) T D McCarthy 0 8 0 ..... S Carson (7) 5
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Soaked, 11-2 Riffi, 6-1 Sihafi, 8-1 Robo Magic, Facile Tigre, Al Mabrook, Ellway Prince, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

RIFFI remains on the upgrade and is interesting on his return to this surface. If the race goes his way, Half Tone could well arrive late on the scene and go close.

3.10 CONFERENCE STAGING MAIDEN STAKES (D) (DIV II) £4,000 3YO 1m

1 2-35 BAAJIL (46) (BF) D Cosgrove 9 0 ..... A McGlone 5
2 00000 GALLANT FELLOW (FR) (3) J Bridger 9 0 ..... G Bardwell 1
3 0 MAWKAB (3) Miss G Kelleway 9 0 ..... S Whitworth 5 V
4 00-006 PIPPAS PRIDE (31) M Fetherston-Godley 9 0 ..... F Norton 6
5 605 RAINSTORM (52) C Dwyer 9 0 ..... O Carter 4
0 2-0302 TUMBLEWEED HERO (36) (BF) B Meehan 9 0 ..... M Tebbutt 2 B
7 40025 DANCING WOLF (23) A McNae 8 9 ..... T Sprake 7
8 00 PAPILLON SAUVAGE (13) W Muir 8 9 ..... J P Spencer (3) 3
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 11-10 Tumbleweed Hero, 3-1 Dancing Wolf, 5-1 Baajil, 8-1 Mawkab, 16-1 Pippas Pride, Rainstorm, 25-1 Gallant Fellow, 33-1 Papillon Sauvage

FORM VERDICT

TUMBLEWEED HERO is the one to beat on all known form.

3.40 POUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (G) £2,500 1m 4f

1 46020 STATAJACK (38) (C D) D Elsworth 10 10 0 ..... K Parsons (7) 3 B
2 6250+ SLIP JIG (402) (CD) (BF) K Burke 5 9 12 ..... P Goode 5
3 522240 MANNEQUIN (56) B Hills 3 9 11 ..... K Sked 15
4 10300/ FRASER CAREY (J18) J O'Shea 8 9 7 ..... F Tyrian (5) 12 B
5 0240 WINNING SAINT (28) M Tompkins 3 9 7 ..... R Smith 13 V
0 504040 WILD CANARY (18) O Marks 3 9 3 ..... P Dobbs 10 E
7 000-50 SCARLET CRESCENT (48) M Usher 4 9 2 ..... W Hutchinson (5) 14
0 000003 GINZBOURG (J24) R O'Sullivan 4 9 0 ..... S Carson 7
9 -00202 WAASEF (2) Miss G Kelleway 5 9 11 ..... P Fredericks 11
10 6-3142 MEMORY'S MUSIC (J7) (CD) M Madgwick 0 0 0 ..... A Eddery 0
11 600001 KATIE'S CRACKER (37) M Quinn 3 9 3 ..... Emily Joyce (5) 1
12 000003 PRIX DE CLERMONT (7) (D) G L Moore 4 0 1 ..... J Bosley (5) 15 B
13 605038 HIGH ON LIFE (16) J Akehurst 4 9 1 ..... P Fitzsimons (3) 4 B
14 200000 CARVER DOONE (2) L A Dace 3 0 0 ..... C Carver 2 B
15 00-050 ARGUMENTATIVE (58) T D Mccarthy 3 7 13 ..... G Hannon (3) 5
16 000000 SAPPHIRE SON (32) P Clarke 0 7 10 ..... S Righton 0
– 16 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Sapphire Son 7st 0lb.
BETTING: 9-2 Mannequin, 6-1 Statajack, Waasef, 7-1 Katie's Cracker, 8-1 Memory's Music, High On Life, 10-1 Prix De Clermont, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

PRIX DE CLERMONT seemed to show better form here last week than he had previously on the surface and is marginally preferred in a very weak heat. Despite an absence of more than a year, Slip Jig is a possibility.

Howell keeps ball rolling

GOLF

SWINDON'S David Howell followed up his first professional victory at the Australian PGA Championship in Sydney last week with an opening round of 71, two under par, to lie four strokes behind the leader Stephen Leaney, of Australia, in the ANZ Players Championship in Brisbane.

Leaney shot a six-under-par 67 to lead by a shot from his fellow Australians David McKenzie and Rod Pampling and New Zealand's Michael Long.

In Ibusuki, Tiger Woods made an eventful start to his first tournament in Japan when a wayward drive on the 10th hole hit a spectator in the face, causing a nose bleed. The fan received brief medical treatment on the spot and then followed Woods for the remainder of his round.

Woods finished two strokes behind the leader Naomichi Ozaki, who fired a five-under-par 67 in the opening round of the Casio World Open.

The world No 1 had four birdies and one bogey and shared fifth place with five others on 69. More than 5,000 spectators turned up to see Woods' Japanese debut.

John Daly shot a five-under-par 66 in the opening round of the Hong Kong Open yesterday to lie two strokes behind the leader Hsieh Chin-sheng, of Taiwan.

The American used his power off the tee to shoot an eagle and four birdies in his first appearance in Hong Kong. "I started really well with an eagle at my second hole and it kind of fired me up." said Daly. "It's a great feeling to be five under par and to be playing well again."

Hsieh, a regular on the Japanese Tour who won the Hong Kong Open in 1988, hit a hot putting streak in his 64. He shot seven birdies and parred the rest to finish two ahead of Daly, Hong Kong's Brad Schadewitz and his compatriot Wang Ter-chang. The defending champion Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand, recorded a one-under 70, a shot ahead of Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 27 November 1998

Champions' League: Nou Camp thriller shows Europe's premier competition is moving in the right direction

United need a balanced effort

BY GLENN MOORE

THE METHODS may be clumsy and the motives grubby, but the money men and football politicians intent on revamping European football appear to be heading in the right direction.

Under the old format, Manchester United's thrilling draw with Barcelona would not have happened – United, as English runners-up, would not be in the competition. Yet who could deny their right of entry after Wednesday's glittering 3-3 at the Nou Camp.

The competition's aim is to find the best team in Europe and that was not always the case when only champions were included. The pursuit of excellence is an ongoing quest and, while Arsenal may hold the Premiership title, United, strengthened by Jaap Stam, Jesper Blomqvist and, especially, Dwight Yorke, are clearly now the better team.

This underlines why the major nations should be allowed more than one entrant. Every country deserves some representation, however fleeting, and, obviously, it would be ludicrous to include a dozen *Serie A* teams, despite the fact that Italy's 12th best team is probably better than Latvia's champions.

With one round of this year's Champions' League group matches to go, 17 teams remain in contention for a place in the quarter-finals. Only 10 of these are domestic champions with both of those in United's group, Barcelona and Brondby, already eliminated.

United must defeat the *Bundesliga* runners-up, Bayern Munich, at Old Trafford in 12 days' time, to be sure of reaching their third successive Champions' Cup quarter-final. However, given the shape of the other five groups, a draw may be enough.

The best two runners-up go through and, because of their superior goal difference, United, should they finish second with the 10 points a draw would give them, will not be surpassed by the runners-up of Groups A, E or F. Group C is a different matter, United would need either Real Madrid to be held at home by Spartak Moscow, or Internazionale to lose at Sturm Graz, to surpass the runner-up. Which leaves Group B, where the situation is complicated by the postponement of the Galatasaray-Juventus tie. However, United would probably only be surpassed if Juventus fail to win in Turkey, then lose at home to Rosenborg Trondheim.

So a point should do it for United and they ought to be capable of getting at least that, though their commitment to attack, as a matter of need, habit and expectation, will leave them vulnerable. The Munich tie was evenly balanced – though Bayern only gained a point in injury-time they had dominated much of the game.

That goal was one of several that have revealed a defensive frailty that could cost United dear should they progress. They may have scored a phenomenal 19 goals in five matches but only the Austrian whipping boys, Sturm Graz, and the Brondby side ravaged by United, have conceded more goals than the 10 put past Peter Schmeichel.

Not that this is Schmeichel's fault, even if he has made some uncharacteristic errors. While glorious to watch, United's attacking philosophy, which was expressed in the selection of just one defensive midfielder, Roy Keane, frequently resulted in United defending four against four. This is difficult against anyone – against Rivaldo and company it was near-suicidal.

In the two games, Barcelona scored six times against United and, while the results have not been all they have wished for, it was hard to understand how Louis van Gaal, having delivered a domestic double last season, receives so much criticism.

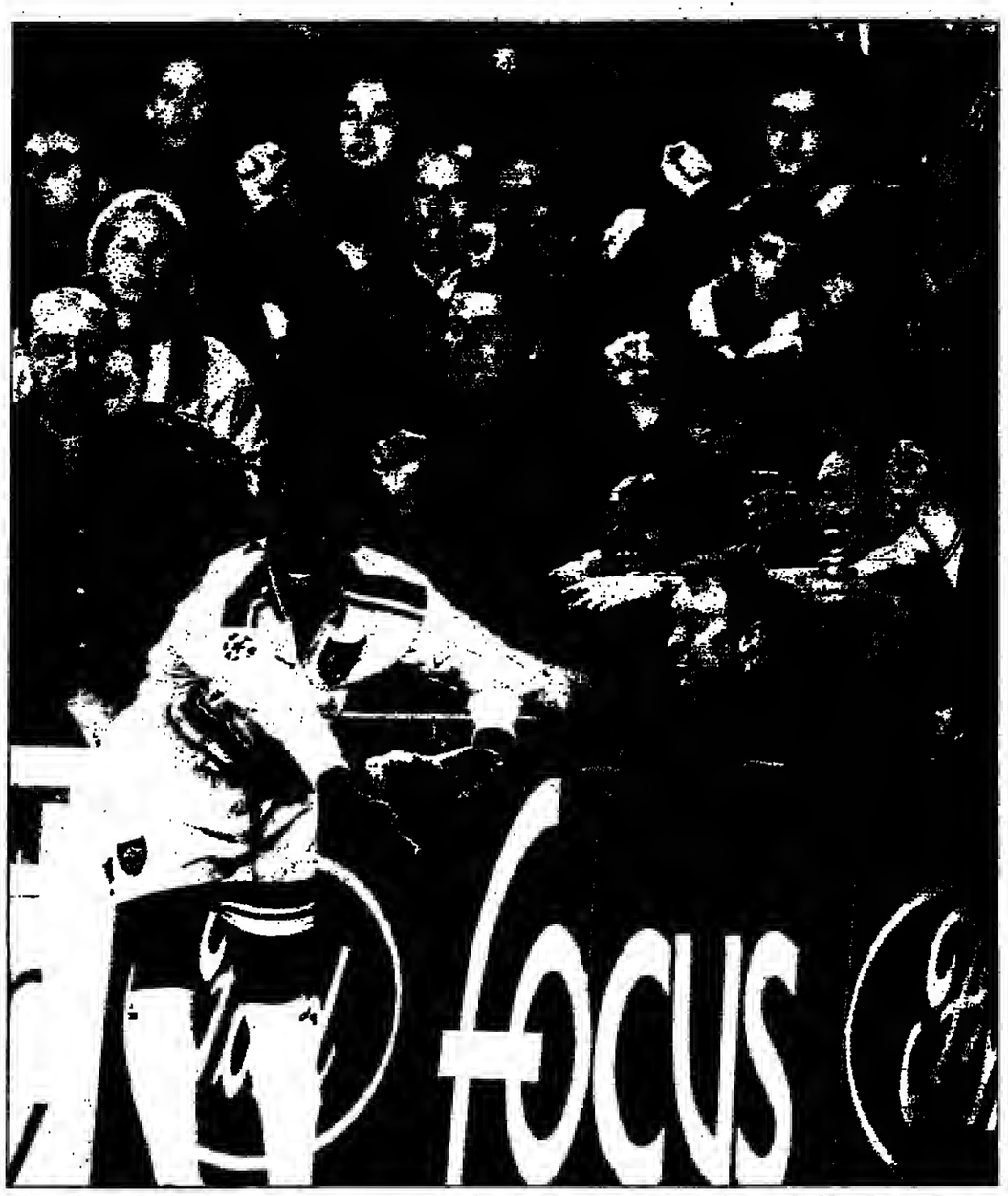
He is undeniably arrogant and prickly and much of it is the result of internal politics, unreasonable expectation and anti-Dutch xenophobia. But, considering their injury problems, his team still put on a remarkable show.

Van Gaal has six years left on his multi-million-pound contract and informed sources in Barcelona expect him to remain a while yet. Indeed, if he does go it is likely to be voluntary, he has clauses allowing his release to coach the Dutch national side after either *Euro 2000* or the 2002 World Cup.

United now revert to the domestic game and the visit of Leeds on Sunday.

This is always a passionate match, for which United will be grateful. Having only arrived back at 2.30am yesterday they might be expected to prefer weaker opposition but, after Wednesday night, it would have been hard to lift themselves.

Instead they can follow an advertisement for the European league with one that showcases the continued value of the domestic game. Whatever Uefa and the clubs do, there needs to be room for both.



Happy times for Manchester United as Andy Cole celebrates with the travelling fans at the Nou Camp *Reuters*

Tiers and cheers for souvenirs

3,000 travelling Old Trafford fans rode the emotional rollercoaster in an awesome arena. By **Derick Allsop**

THE TURBULENCE on the flight home should have surprised no one. Only at the weekend Fergie had talked of the rollercoaster ride with United, and the weary troop who touched down at Manchester Airport at 2.30 yesterday morning had experienced every emotional peak and trough in the long day before.

These intrepid travellers were among 3,000 United fans perched on the upper tier of the awesome Nou Camp to witness what just might have been the match of a lifetime.

They set out on Wednesday morning on one of the three official United excursions – the club offer options of a two-day air package and a three-day coach trip – to Barcelona, and a crusade that has generated ever more intense spiritual fervour with recent failures.

The European Cup has become an obsession for the manager, players and supporters much as it was before the deliverance of Matt Busby's third great team 30 years ago.

Subsequent decades of hooliganism and tragedy have shaped the order of following clubs abroad and United have a meticulously honed game plan. Security staff accompany these tours in numbers. Match tickets are handed out as fans board the plane. No alcohol is served on the flight out.

The Spanish courier on the bus transferring passengers from Barcelona Airport to the port was more of a loose cannon, although his unwitting impersonation of Manuel from Fawlty Towers provided entertainment en route. He apologised for being a first-year student of English.

The restriction on booze went awry on arrival. Let lose in the city for five hours, many were hell bent on making up for lost time in the bars of La Rambla. One particularly disorientated fan, using his pal as a crutch, had a TV camera monitoring his every faltering step.

"That's typical," said another supporter. "Those pictures will go round the world and then it will be 'three thousand United hooligans'."

At the stadium fans were searched and ushered through a phalanx of police, helmets at the hip, some with dogs. Seasoned campaigners found the climb up to their seats rather more intimidating. We are talking high and, no matter how often you visit Nou Camp, it is breath-taking in every sense.

United, of course, are proud of their place, and one supporter sneered: "This has not even got a roof". His mate reasoned: "The Scousers nicked it."

That went down well. So did Peter Schmeichel's reaction when Barça fans behind the goal threw a chair at him during his warm-up. He sat on it and defiantly faced them.

Humour and anthems gave way to stunned disbelief when United conceded a goal inside a minute, but were back on the agenda after Dwight Yorke equalised. The pattern for the evening had been established: pain, relief, anguish, ecstasy.

Schmeichel's a hero, now he's past it, now he is a hero again. Beckham's asleep, Scholes is a gem, Keano's brainless, Yorke and Cole are brilliant, why don't they get hold of Rivaldo? Lens' goal against Arsenal is celebrated almost as lavishly as United's three.

At the end the fans are philosophical. Should have won, could have lost, cracking match. Bring on Bayern...

Gunners' armoury short on supplies

BY STEVE TONGUE

IF THE visiting supporters at Wembley on Wednesday had been from Scandinavia, with their impeccable command of British football anthems, they would doubtless have taunted the home side with a rendition of "Are you Arsenal in disguise?" Towards the end of the evening, even the home following must have been tempted, for the team in unfamiliar navy-blue shirts looked nothing like the one that ended a triumphant season last May by completing the League and Cup double on that same pitch.

Goodness knows what sort of a side will turn out for the final group match away to Panathinaikos on Wednesday week when, as a result of this 1-0 defeat by Lens, the Gunners will be playing only to avoid the ignominy of finishing bottom of the table. Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, badly missed in two of the three home matches, are unlikely to be ready to return to a midfield area that will also be deprived of Ray Parlour, who was sent off in stoppage time as the English champions lost all sense of *Le Fair Play*. Dennis Bergkamp – also missing against Lens – need no longer worry about trains and boats, let alone planes, to Athens, and may not be fit either. Ditto Tony Adams, taken off at half-time because of recurring back trouble.

Wenger has always insisted that the table he cares about most is the one currently headed by Aston Villa. Whether or not Arsenal's senior players share his opinion after winning three League titles but never reaching a European Cup quarter-final, the defender Martin Keown was toeing the party line yesterday when he said: "It's over now. It was nice while it lasted, but we have to dust ourselves down and get on with it. We've got another big game against Middlesbrough on Sunday and we've got to be ready and right for it."

Keown will be, but the continuing unavailability of influential team-mates raises again the question of whether Wenger has a strong enough squad.

Comparisons with Manchester United are inevitable and inevitably unfavourable. Since last season Alex Ferguson has shelled out £27m on strengthening each area of the team. Wenger has lost Ian Wright, spent £2m on David Grondin and Nelson Vivas, then, after the Champions' League deadline, bought Fredrik Ljungberg.

The manager says the transfer market has "gone crazy", much as people did when Arsenal paid £14,000 for Bryn Jones 60 years ago, and much as George Graham did when he was prevented by the Highbury board from taking part in it. The result is that, after some commendable success in securing players like Petit, Vieira and Nicolas Anelka at duty-free rates, Arsenal are buying the foreign equivalents of Chris Kiwomya and Jimmy Carter.

While statistics can occasionally lie, they do not, on this occasion, contradict the evidence of the season as a whole. Arsenal have scored 19 goals in as many games and none in the past four matches. Only once has a player scored twice in the same game, and the last six have brought only one victory.

In Europe, lacking the quality to cover for injuries and largely self-inflicted suspensions (Vieira was booked in every Champions' League match he played), they have been exposed twice by Kiev, run close by Panathinaikos and beaten at home by a Lens side only 10th in the French league.

"We had enough out there to have beaten that team," Keown said. "We should have won at a gallop." The official match statistics gave Lens exactly 50 per cent of possession and twice as many shots on goal, even after a first 15 minutes spent under the cosh.

Keown believes it is time for the real Arsenal to stand up. The trouble at present is that half of them can't even walk.

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	5	3	1	1	7	5	16
Croatia Zagreb	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Ajax	5	2	1	2	4	3	7
Porto (E)	5	1	1	3	8	9	4

KEY: E: Eliminated. Q: Qualified for quarter-finals.

Results so far: Porto 2 Olympiakos 2; Croatia Zagreb 0 Ajax 0; Olympiakos 2 Croatia Zagreb 0; Ajax 2 Porto 1; Olympiakos 1 Ajax 0; Porto 3 Croatia Zagreb 0; Ajax 2 Olympiakos 0; Croatia Zagreb 3 Porto 1; Olympiakos 2 Porto 1; Ajax 0 Croatia Zagreb 1.

Remaining fixtures: Wed 9 Dec: Porto v Ajax; Croatia Zagreb v Olympiakos.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Galatasaray	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Juventus	4	0	4	0	4	4	4
Ath Bilbao (E)	5	0	3	2	4	6	3

Results so far: Athletic Bilbao 1 Rosenborg Trondheim 1; Juventus 2 Galatasaray 2; Galatasaray 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg Trondheim 1 Juventus 1; Rosenborg Trondheim 3 Galatasaray 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Juventus 0; Galatasaray 3 Rosenborg Trondheim 0; Juventus 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg Trondheim 2 Athletic Bilbao 1.

Remaining fixtures: Wed 2 Dec: Galatasaray v Juventus. **Wed 9 Dec:** Athletic Bilbao v Galatasaray; Juventus v Rosenborg Trondheim.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Real Madrid	5	3	0	2	15	7	9
Sptk Moscow	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Sturm Graz (E)	5	0	1	4	2	14	1

Results so far: Real Madrid 2 Internazionale 0; Sturm Graz 0 Spartak Moscow 2; Spartak Moscow 2 Real Madrid 1; Internazionale 1 Sturm Graz 0; Internazionale 2 Spartak Moscow 1; Real Madrid 6 Sturm Graz 1; Spartak Moscow 1 Internazionale 1; Sturm Graz 1 Real Madrid 5; Internazionale 3 Real Madrid 1; Spartak Moscow 0 Sturm Graz 0.

Remaining fixtures: Wed 9 Dec: Real Madrid v Spartak Moscow; Sturm Graz v Internazionale.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Man Utd	5	2	3	0	19	10	9
Barcelona (E)	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
Brondby (E)	5	1	0	4	4	16	3

Results so far: Brondby 2 Bayern Munich 1; Manchester Utd 3 Barcelona 3; Barcelona 2 Brondby 0; Bayern Munich 2 Manchester Utd 2; Bayern Munich 1 Barcelona 0; Brondby 2 Manchester Utd 6; Barcelona 1 Bayern Munich 2; Manchester Utd 5 Brondby 0; Bayern Munich 2 Brondby 0; Barcelona 3 Manchester Utd 3.

Remaining fixtures: Wed 9 Dec: Brondby v Barcelona; Manchester Utd v Bayern Munich.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Lens	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
Panathinaikos	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Arsenal (E)	5	1	2	2	5	7	5

Results so far: Lens 1 Arsenal 1; Panathinaikos 2 Dynamo Kiev 1; Dynamo Kiev 1 Lens 1; Arsenal 2 Panathinaikos 1; Arsenal 1 Dynamo Kiev 1; Lens 1 Panathinaikos 0; Dynamo Kiev 3 Arsenal 1; Panathinaikos 1 Lens 0; Arsenal 0 Lens 1; Dynamo Kiev 2 Panathinaikos 1

Remaining fixtures: Wed 9 Dec: Lens v Dynamo Kiev; Panathinaikos v Arsenal.

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaisrslutrn (Q)	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Benfica	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
PSV Eindhoven	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
HJK Hlsnki (E)	5	1	2	2	6	7	5

Results so far: PSV Eindhoven 2 HJK Helsinki 1; Kaiserslautern 1 Benfica 0; Benfica 2 PSV Eindhoven 1, HJK Helsinki 0 Kaiserslautern 0; HJK Helsinki 2 Benfica 0 PSV Eindhoven 1 Kaiserslautern 2; Benfica 2 HJK Helsinki 2; Kaiserslautern 3 PSV Eindhoven 1; HJK Helsinki 1 PSV Eindhoven 3; Benfica 2 Kaiserslautern 1

Remaining fixtures: Wed 9 Dec: PSV Eindhoven v Benfica; Kaiserslautern v HJK Helsinki.

Qualification: The six group winners will qualify, plus the two best runners-up. Within the groups, should two clubs finish equal on points after the six group matches, the following criteria will be applied to determine placings:

1 Greater number of points obtained in matches between the clubs in question. 2 Goal difference resulting from the matches between the clubs in question. 3 Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the clubs in question. 4 Superior goal difference from all matches played. 5 Greater number of goals scored. 6 National coefficient at the start of the season.

The two best runners-up, who help make up the eight clubs contesting the quarter-finals, will be decided by these criteria: 1 Number of points obtained in group matches. 2 Goal difference from all group matches 3 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches. 4 Greater number of goals scored away from home 5 National association's coefficient at start of season. 6 Individual club's coefficient at start of season

Parkes the man to calm a crisis

The caretaker's caretaker is back in charge at Blackburn and the Premiership's bottom club could not be in better hands. By Guy Hodgson

Tony Parkes, whose fourth spell as caretaker at Blackburn will start in earnest on Sunday when Rovers visit Liverpool *Michael Steele*

SOME people are born great, others have greatness repeatedly tapping on their shoulders. Tony Parkes says until his face is as blue as half of a Blackburn Rovers shirt that he does not want to be a manager on a permanent basis, but come a crisis and he is summoned.

On Sunday, for the fourth time in his 28-year association with Ewood Park, Parkes will be leading from the bench.

The match is against Liverpool, the very same opponents against whom Parkes got his first win the last time he temporarily moved his stuff into the Blackburn manager's office two years ago. To some people that would be an omen, in his case it is barely worth a mention. He is, after all, the caretaker's caretaker.

Parkes was an industrious midfielder with Rovers, nothing flashy but just the sort you require to allow the brighter lights to shine and in many ways it foreshadowed his off-the-field career where he has been happy to let others take the plaudits while he has beavered away behind the scenes. In some, such a lack of ambition would be condemned; in him, you can only acknowledge his loyalty and sense of duty.

On his three previous occasions he has filled a void after Bobby Saxton, Don Mackay and Ray Harford left and in his own quiet, humorous way he has stepped back into the shadows, leaving Rovers in far better shape than he found them.

In 1987 he was unbeaten, four years later, after Mackay was sacked, he got 17 out of 24 points and presented the side to Kenny Dalglish gift-wrapped in eighth place and in position to earn promotion to the Premiership via the play-offs that same season. When Harford left in October 1996 Blackburn had four points from 11 games, yet Parkes saved them from relegation and lifted them to 13th.

Some people would assume an arrogant air with half those achievements but one of Parkes' great abilities is not to take himself seriously. Last time around in the hot seat he found humour was the best medicine, explaining his attitude after one match with: "We've had the gloom and doom bit and that didn't work so let's try and attack it differently. More jovial, more unconcerned."

On another occasion, after Rovers had beaten Southampton, he said: "Managers are dour and miserable, and I want to stay a happy-go-lucky chap. Wait until Mr Souness comes, he's a proper manager."

Not that Parkes has had much to smile about this week after Saturday's dismissal of Roy Hodgson after Blackburn had slipped to the bottom of the Premiership. "It was a shock, it always is," he said, "because I always felt Roy would be given time to sort things out. The biggest danger for me was that he would resign. Roy has mood swings, he gets very, very down and he wanted success so badly for the club."

Saturday was shocking for it suddenness. At 5pm, Hodgson was talking to the BBC cameras about the tasks ahead. By 6pm his dismissal had been announced to the bemusement and disappointment of his coaching staff. "Roy came down to the dressing-room area having spent 10 minutes with Jack Walker [Rovers' owner]," Parkes said. "He shook hands with all the back-room staff and left. He wasn't in the frame of mind to have any long chats.

"It was a sad weekend, but we have to look forward. I'm not a better manager than Roy Hodgson, nor am I a better coach but sometimes a change can produce an upturn in fortunes. We certainly need that."

Names like Hendry, Evans, Dalglish and Kidd have been linked to the Ewood vacancy while Parkes picked up the pieces, but through a difficult week he has retained his sense of irony. "I'm glad you reminded me about that," he said to reporters as they asked him about Anfield on Sunday. "I was just beginning to feel a little bit better chatting to you lads but there is a football match ahead isn't there? Liverpool are as good as anybody to start with. All games are difficult when you're not playing well but we've had a chat in training this week and with luck we'll be positive."

If they are, it will be down to Parkes... Again.

PARKES LIFE

Born: Sheffield 5 May 1949

Midfielder: Joined Blackburn Rovers May 1970 from Buxton

Blackburn playing record 1970-1980: 345 appearances, 38 goals

First spell as caretaker manager (after Bobby Saxton's departure): December 1986-February 1987

Second spell (Don Mackay): September-October 1991

Third spell (Ray Harford): October 1996-July 1997

Fourth spell (Roy Hodgson): November 1998-

Brown's Scotland hint for Ferguson

THE SCOTLAND coach, Craig Brown, has paved the way for Newcastle United's new striker, Duncan Ferguson, to return to international football – less than a year after the striker said he would never play for his country again.

Brown responded to the 26-year-old Ferguson'a hint on Wednesday that he had had a change of heart about representing Scotland following his transfer from Everton.

"As far as I am concerned I am delighted Duncan has given us another option and I will be monitoring his progress over the coming months," Brown said yesterday.

Gareth Barry is to be offered a new five-year contract by Aston Villa that could earn him up to half a million pounds a year. The 17-year-old, who has earned a regular place in the Villa side recently, plus a first England Under-21 cap against the Czech Republic last week, would earn £2,500 a week, plus £7,500 every time he appears for Villa.

"It is better, considering his age, to gear his contract to heavy incentives," Barry's manager, John Gregory, said. "He's not 18 until February and there's always a danger of paying him too much money."

The Welsh international Gareth Taylor has completed his £400,000 move from Sheffield United to Manchester City. The 25-year-old striker will make his City debut at Luton tomorrow.

Huddersfield Town are trying to sign the midfielder Graham Hyde from Sheffield Wednesday in a £500,000 deal.

The Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, reaffirmed his support for an African bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals when he met South Africa's president, Nelson Mandela, yesterday.

"It is logical that the World Cup finals goes to Africa in 2006 and if they can prove they can organise it, then I will back it 100 percent," Blatter said, after awarding Mandela with the Fifa Order of Merit.

The Belgian side, Genk, have failed to get a European Cup-Winners' Cup tie against Mallorca replayed, after protesting about the proximity of advertising boards to the pitch at the Spanish club's stadium.

Marko Viduka's Celtic debut, pencilled in for tomorrow's game against Motherwell, may still be held up. The £3m signing from Croatia Zagreb is still waiting for a work permit from the Department for Employment and Education.

"I hope everything is sorted out soon or this will become the longest transfer in history," the Australian said yesterday.

Mixed blessings for Cheadle Town

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALFE

THE GOOD news for Cheadle Town, an in-debt Cheshire club, is that they may soon be rescued by new investors. The bad news, so their fans seem to think, is the identity of the potential backers: Mark Weaver and Ken Richardson.

The two men blamed by most of South Yorkshire for the downfall of Doncaster Rovers as a League team are among the backers of an offshore consortium which wants to take control of the North Western Trains League side, who are heavily in debt to a brewery. Weaver, who was Rovers' general manager last season, and Richardson, previously the chairman of both Doncaster and the former Bridlington Town club, have announced ambitious plans for Cheadle.

Although there are many hurdles to be overcome before the proposals become reality, Cheadle hope that the new consortium will, at a cost of around £3m, transform their Park Road ground. A stand with executive boxes is planned, along with a multi-purpose sports hall housing 10 indoor pitches, a gymnasium and a health club.

This sounds like a dream come true, but Cheadle supporters are understandably suspicious of Weaver and Richardson, who were the target of a campaign of vilification in Doncaster last season.

Susan Burton, Cheadle's secretary, admitted yesterday that she had received plenty of phone calls from fans about the planned takeover, most of which had been negative. "But they approached us, we didn't go to them," she said. "Almost every non-League club is struggling for money, and we're no different." She would not comment when asked what the consortium hopes to get out of the deal.

Another Cheshire club, Witton Albion, are now struggling in the lower half of the UniBond League First Division, just four years after being relegated from the Conference. Last week they parted company with their manager, Peter Ward, who had taken charge in the summer. His temporary replacement is Witton's Director of Football: John Bond, the former Manchester City manager.

It has been a good couple of weeks for another UniBond First Division side, Bradford Park Avenue. They enjoyed a 2-0 win at Witton in the FA Umbro Trophy last weekend while their goalkeeper, Derek O'Connor, has won international recognition. Despite dropping down to the non-League game from Huddersfield Town, the 20-year-old retained his place in the Republic of Ireland Under-21 squad for last week's trip to Yugoslavia.

Racism campaigners move to grass roots

ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGNERS say that racist abuse at grounds is on the increase due to a false sense of security.

The *Kick It Out* group, which has been running the campaign for the last 18 months, has become concerned at the steady rise in the number of incidents since the start of the season. Ben Tegg, the assistant campaign co-ordinator for *Kick It Out*, said: "Football seems to think it has dealt with the problem, but that's not the case."

Only recently, racism reared its ugly head when two Asian boys were beaten with corner flags by opposing players in a game in London. *Kick It Out's* campaign has spread to "the grass roots of football", taking its message into schools and on to the playing fields of local Sunday league matches.

As Tegg admits, racism will never be completely stamped out of the game: "We want to do more work in these areas to educate people. Racism isn't football's problem, it's society's problem."

The police go undercover, page 5

Sheffield break up Wembley squad

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

SHEFFIELD EAGLES are releasing two more members of the squad that brought them their finest hour when they won the Challenge Cup last May. Their former Halifax and Keighley loose forward, Martin Wood, and their utility back, Lynton Stott, were both among the substitutes at Wembley that day, although Stott did not get on to the field for the defeat of Wigan.

Now both are being allowed to leave as the Eagles try to trim costs by bringing their first-team squad down to 22 players.

"We had to take this decision reluctantly because of salary cap pressures on the club," the Sheffield coach, John Kear, said. "Lynton and Martin have both given great service and loyalty to the club and we hope they get a contract quickly."

Stott has already been playing rugby union on a short-term contract with Leeds Tykes, while Wood's craft and experience should make him an attractive proposition elsewhere.

Their departure will continue the break-up of the Wembley squad. Sheffield have already transfer-listed their captain, the Great Britain prop, Paul Broadbent, after refusing his request for an improved deal, while their cup final second-rower, Paul Carr, has retired and returned to Australia.

Featherstone Rovers, narrowly beaten to the First Division title last season, are changing their image and the name of their ground, but not the name of the club itself.

Post Office Road, their home since 1921, is to be known in future as Lionheart Stadium, following the decision of Lionheart, an arm of RJB Mining, to extend their sponsorship to the end of 2003.

Featherstone will also replace the town crest on their shirt with a representation of a rover – or sea-robber – but denied that they are going to become Featherstone Pirates.

"We are updating our image for merchandising, but not changing our name," said a club spokesman. "We looked in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and that's what a rover is."

Phil Clarke, sacked as chief executive by Wigan last week, has been approached on behalf of Sale about a similar vacancy at the rugby union club.

Slough hit by injury crisis

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

INJURIES COULD play a crucial part in tomorrow's top EHL Premier game. Slough, the defending champions, who suffered their first defeat last weekend at the hands of Ipswich since they were beaten in March 1997 by Clifton, face a tough double-header this weekend with depleted ranks.

At home to Fyffes Leicester and with a rearranged fixture at Southgate on Sunday against Doncaster, they will be without their midfield dynamo Sarah Kelleher, who is returning to Ireland for the Provincial Games, and Karen Brown, who was injured at Ipswich and is not expected to play until after Christmas.

Also missing is the South African Ashleigh Wallace, who has returned home following the death of her father. Internationals Mandy Nicholson and Jane Smith are also doubtful. Both missed training on Wednesday.

Leicester, too, have injury problems. The captain Jo Mould is ruled out with a broken hand. Kirsty Bowden is doubtful with a knee injury and goalkeeper Aileen Claxton is recovering from an appendicitis operation. Claire Ruddy is likely to continue in goal.

Leaders Ipswich will be looking for revenge with their away game against Olton Terraquest, the only team to have taken a point off them this season.

Bromley Juniors have been honoured by the English Sports Council for harnessing the efforts of unpaid volunteers. The winners of this year's Volunteer Investment Programme Awards will be presented with their prize at the Sports Writers' Association's gala at the London Hilton on 14 December.

TODAY'S NUMBER

23bn

The number of lire (£8.75m) for which former Olympic skiing champion Alberto Tomba and his business manager father, Franco, have been charged with tax fraud.

SPORTING DIGEST

Fu earns his reward

SNOOKER

HONG KONG'S Marco Fu has been rewarded for his meteoric rise to prominence with the award of a wild card into next year's Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge. However, news of Fu's elevation alongside 11 of the game's leading players took his new manager Ian Doyle by surprise.

"It may well be Marco was asked prior to joining our organisation," Doyle said. "But it would have been nice had the WPBSA [the sport's governing body] told me before the news was made public."

Doyle was unaware of Fu's inclusion in the tournament, to be held at Derby next February, until yesterday's draw.

Fu, a finalist in last month's Grand Prix, plays Welshman Mark Williams while the defending champion, John Higgins takes on Peter Ebdon or Steve Davis.

ASIAN GAMES

Saudi Arabia has withdrawn from next month's Asian Games in Bangkok because the event coincides with religious and national festivals at home.

BADMINTON

HONG KONG OPEN Men's singles, third round: T P Gade Christensen (Den) bt Wong Choong Hann (Malay) 15-10 15-3; I Saman (Malay) bt T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) 11-15 15-12 15-13; Chen Geng (Ch) bt J Wilaya (Indon) 17-15 15-11; R Hashim (Malay) bt P Rasmussen (Den) 15-11; 10-15 15-13; R Sidek (Malay) bt J Rosobin (Indon) 15-3 12-15 15-13; J Kusuma Hadi (Indon) bt O Pahyana (Neth) 12-15 15-6 15-5; B Sancoso (Indon) bt K Jonassen (Den) 15-6 15-11; R Agustinus (Indon) bt A Boesen (Den) 15-7 11-15 17-14. **Women's singles, second round:** C Martin (Den) bt A Sletz (Ger) 11-1 11-1; Zhou Mi (Ch) bt E Angelina (Indon) 11-5 11-7; J Meulendijks (Neth) bt K Morgan (Wal) 4-11 13-11 11-6; Ling Wan-ting (HK) bt Huang Chia-chi (Taiw) 0-11 11-2 11-4; L Djaelawuaya (Indon) bt Ng Ching (HK) 11-8 11-1; M Pedersen (Den) bt Z Abdullah (Sing) 11-7 11-8; K Ericsson (Swe) bt Jie Eyni (HK) 11-5 11-5; Chan Ya-ling (Taiw) bt Koon Wai-chee (HK) 6-11 11-8 11-3.

BASEBALL

The New York Yankees player Bernie Williams has agreed a new seven-year contract with the club valued at $87.5m (£53m).

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Semi-final round Group B: England 87 Denmark 70 *(at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)*.

BOWLS

UK INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Hopton on Sea, Norfolk): Semi-finals: D Corkill (Int) bt M King (Eng) 7-0 7-4 7-5; P Foster (Sco) bt D Bryant (Eng) 7-4 7-4 7-6.

BOXING

Thailand's Samart Sojaturong beat Medican challenger Ladislao Vazaeuz on points to retain his World Boxing Council light-flyweight title in Bangkok yesterday.

The former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson plans to plead no contest to charges he attacked two men in August after an traffic accident in Maryland. The plea means Tyson would not have to admit or deny guilt, but if a judge accepts the plea, Tyson would be sentenced as if he pleaded guilty. Each charge carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Sydney: New South Wales 69 for 0 v Western Australia. Hobart: Queensland 212 (G Denton 4-55); Tasmania 20 for 1. Melbourne: Victoria 248 for 1 (M Elliott 144no, J Amberger 80) v South Australia.

FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Scottish League Third Division: Dumbarton 0 Montrose 2. **Press & Journal Highland League:** Clachnacuddin 1 Brora Rangers 0; Nairn County 5 Fort William 2; Rothes 0 Fraserburgh 5. **Welsh Cup third round replays:** BP Llandarcy 3 British Aerospace 2; Chepstow 2 Carmarthen 5; Flint 1 Rhyl 1 *(aet, Flint won 5-4 on penalties)*. **Scottish Irish League First Division:** Ballyclare 5 Limavady 1. **Nationwide Irish Gold Cup quarter-final (Tuesday):** Newry 1 Glentoran 3. **FA Umbro Trophy Second round replay:** Dartford 1 Farnborough 2. **Dr Martens League Cup first round first leg:** Corby 1 Stamford 0. **First round second leg:** Brackley 1 Cambridge City 4 *(agg: 4-8)*; Salisbury 2 Bashley 2 *(agg: 3-3 Bashley win on away goals)*. **Ryman League Westland Trophy second round:** Tring 0 Epsom & Ewell 2. **UniBond League Unitiba First Division Cup second round:** Farsley Celtic 1 Alfreton 3. **Unijet Sussex County League First Division:** Eastbourne Town 2 Ringmer 1. **Northern Counties East League President's Cup third round:** Harlow 2 Ossett Albion 1. **Jewson Eastern League Premier Division:** Stowmarket 2 Newmarket 4. **Wilkinsonsword West League Premier Division:** VCD Athletic 3 Lordswood 0. **Arnott Insurance Northern First Division:** Shildon 2 Billingham Town 4. **League Cup third round:** Willington 0 Bedlington Terriers 5. **Avon Insurance Combination First Division:** Cambridge Utd 1 Swindon 2; Fulham 2 Tottenham 0; Luton 2 Ipswich 3; Wycombe 0 Norwich 2; Oxford Utd 0 Crystal Palace 0; Wimbledon 2 Chelsea 1. **Pontins League First Division:** Burnley 2 West Bromwich 2. **Second Division:** Huddersfield 2 Stockport 0. **League Cup Group One:** Scarborough 3 Hartlepool 4; Darlington 4 Newcastle 1. **Group Two:** Rotherham 0 York 0. **Group Three:** Manchester City 3 Tranmere 3. **The Times FA Youth Cup second-round replays:** Reading 2 Hinckley Utd 1; Enfield 0 Gillingham 3.

GOLF

CASIO WORLD OPEN (Tokaki, Japan) Leading first round scores (Japan unless stated): 67 N Ozaki; 68 H Tanaka, M Osanai, P Stankowski (US); 69 B Watts (US), T Izawa, N Ishara, Y Kaneko, Kim Jong Duk (S Kor), T Woods (US); 70 M Ozaki, B Jobe (US), T Hamilton (US), Y Imano, Yeh Chang-ting (Taiw), T Fukuzawa, H Goda.

HONG KONG OPEN Leading first round scores: 64 Hsieh Chin-sheng (Taiw); 66 J Daly (US), B Schadewitz (HK), Wang Ter-chang (Taiw); 67 R Ponce (Ec); 68 C Williams (GB), E Meeks (US), M Brooks (US), Park Nam-sin (S Kor), K Walker (GB), D Terblanche (SA), A Wall (GB), O Fung (HK), P Harrison (GB), B Andrews (Aus). **Selected:** 70 F Nobilo (NZ), D Frost (SA); 71 J M Olazabal (Sp); 72 C Rocca (It).

AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP (Brisbane) (Aus unless stated): 67 S Leaney; 68 D McKenzie, R Pampling, M Long (NZ); 69 C Pavin (US), J L Guepy (Fr), P Lonard; 70 C Warren, S Struver (Ger), B King, J Van de Velde (Fr), N Kerry, T Dempsey (US); 71 O Armstrong, D Howell (GB), M Ecob, P O'Malley, P Quirici (Swit), T Carolan, W Smith, R Byrd (US), O Podlich, J Riley, R Stephens, N O'Hern.

ZIMBABWE OPEN (Harare) Leading first round scores (SA unless stated): 66 T van der Walt; 67 R Dreyer; 68 A McLean, M Wiltshire, D van Staden, A Cruse; 69 W Abery, N Price (Zim), C Sorour; 70 S Pappas, B Liddle, P Panagopoulos, H Otto, A van Staden, P Wilson (GB); 71 H Bain, D Richardt, H Walters, L McNeill (Zim), S Painting (Zim), L Loxton, W Bodha, N Henning; 72 M Lamb (Zim), B Davison, S Ludgater, R Whitfield, M Ireland, D McGuigan, H Jacobs, B Hlophe, T Johnstone (Zim), W de Haas, G Jacobs, I Palmer; 73 J Robertson, J Okello (Ken), J Jackson (Zim), R Stewart, S van Vuuren, D Botes, B Pappas, A Michell, J Dickson, J Bele, A McLardy, Paul Blakie, W Coetsee, J Loughnane, I Hutching.

ICE HOCKEY

Ian Cooper, the Great Britain international, has been named as the new captain of London Knights. He replaces Bruce Eakin, who announced his retirement last weekend.

NHL: Buffalo 4 NY Rangers 2; Carolina 3 San Jose 0; Washington 5 Pittsburgh 4; Detroit 5 Anaheim 2; Boston 1 Florida 0; NY Islanders 4 Philadelphia 2; Toronto 5 Vancouver 1; Nashville 4 Calgary 3; New Jersey 5 Dallas 2; Edmonton 3 Colorado 0.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Malaysia has confirmed it will be bidding to host the 2008 Olympic Games. On Wednesday, Peking said it would be bidding for the event. A decision will be made in 2001.

RUGBY UNION

WEDNESDAY LATE RESULTS: Club Matches: Cambridge University 42 Steele-Bodger's XV 62; Combined London OB 14 Oxford University 61 *(at Beckenham RFC)*.

SAILING

TORNADO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Bestoa, Bra) Second day: Race three: 1 J Mourniac and P Mourniac (Fr); 2 F Le Peutrec and D Douillard (Fr); 3 D Bondock and J Forbes (Aus). **Race four:** 1 R Gaebler and R Schwall (Ger); 2 M Booth and A Landenberger (Aus); 3 Frederic Le Peutrec and D Douillard (Fr). **Overall standings:** 1 Bundock and Forbes 11pts; 2 Booth and Landenberger 6; 3 Le Peutrec and Douillard 18; 4 Mourniac and Mourniac 20; 5 Gaebler and Schwall 22; 6 A Higara and W Moser (Aus) 30; 7 F Leon and J L Ballester (Sp) 34; 8 R Van Teytingen and H Deckson (Neth) 35; 9 R Hagara and H P Steinach (Aut) 44; 10 R Xavier and G Laurent (Fr) 44.

SNOOKER

WORLD WOMEN'S UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Bournemouth) Quarter-finals: J Wagner (Sweden) bt J Parrott (Eng) 9-6; D Harold (Eng) bt F O'Brien (Rep Ir) 9-4.

SQUASH

WOMEN'S MONTE CARLO CLASSIC (Monaco) First round: S Schone (Ger) bt A Naude (SA) 9-0 9-3 9-0; V Atkinson (Neth) bt P Nimmo (Sco) 9-1 9-1 4-9 8-10 9-1; F Geaves (Eng) bt M Zein (Eg) 3-9 9-0 9-1 9-2; R Grinham (Aus) bt L Khan (US) 3-9 9-1 9-0 5-9 10-8; J Thacker (Eng) bt S Macfie (Sco) 9-2 9-5 9-1; M Batzley (Can) bt [5] C Nitch (SA) 6-2 retired; J Transfield (Eng) bt S Khan (US) 9-3 9-0 9-4; S Wright bt K Hannes (Bel) 9-2 9-3 9-1.

TENNIS

ATP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanover) White Group: T Henman (GB) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7-6 6-7 6-2; G Rusedski (GB) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6 (7-5) 6-1.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.45 unless stated

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
Barnsley v Huddersfield
THIRD DIVISION
Halifax v Mansfield

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Runcorn v Lancaster (7.30).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Connah's Quay Nomads (7.30).

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Bohemians v Sligo Rovers; Shelbourne v UCD.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Reivers v Fiji (7.0) *(at Mansfield Park, Hawick)*.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London & South West v South Africa Under-21 (7.0) *(at London Irish)*.

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP First round first leg: Leeds v Rotherham (7.30); Northampton v Moseley (7.30); Richmond v London Welsh (7.30) *(at the Athletic Ground)*; Worcester v Exeter (7.30).

SPORT

PARKES HAPPY IN THE SHADOWS P31 ● THE RODBER RUGBY REVIVAL P29

Tennis: Henman earns place in ATP Tour Championship semi-finals but even two wins may not be enough for Rusedski

Britons hold court in Hanover

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Hanover

THERE WAS a time, by George, when the king's road emanated from Hanover. It is fitting, therefore, that a couple of British ambassadors, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, should be allowed to take a bow today at the court of Prince Pete.

Pete Sampras, the winner of five Wimbledon championships and a total of 11 Grand Slam titles, reached another milestone yesterday by finishing at No 1 in the world for a record sixth consecutive year. His position was confirmed when Marcelo Rios, the only player capable of overtaking the American, retired from the ATP Tour Championship and returned to Chile with a pain in the backside.

The rest of the day belonged to Britain. Henman was in the happy state of having qualified for the semi-finals of the ATP Tour finale as the winner of the White Group. The 24-year-old from Oxford completes the round-robin segment of the tournament today by playing Rusedski, who has emerged from the substitute's bench with a chance of joining Henman in the last four.

HENMAN v RUSEDSKI

Surface	rd	winner	score
1995 National Championships			
Carpet	F	Henman	1-6, 6-3, 6-2
1996 Ostrava			
Carpet	R16	Henman	7-6, 7-5
1996 National Championships			
Carpet	F	Henman	6-7, 7-6, 6-4
1997 Vienna			
Carpet	SF	Rusedski	6-4, 6-4
Henman leads 3-1			

Henman, who capitalised on Rios's aches and pains by defeating the world No 2 in straight sets on Tuesday, needed an amalgam of a skill, patience and determination yesterday to overcome Alex Corretja, the world No 6 from Spain, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 after two hours and 29 minutes.

Rusedski, who arrived at the Expo 2000 Tennis Dome to replace the injured Andre Agassi against the walking-wounded Rios, discovered at the last moment that he would be playing the Spaniard Albert Costa, a fellow reserve. For Rusedski, that meant adjusting his strategy from competing against Rios, a fellow left-hander, to the right-handed Costa.

The switch also created something of a psychological problem for Rusedski, who found himself facing an opponent who had nothing to lose, least of all his reputation on indoor courts. Costa, ranked No 14, has never won a match indoors in six years on the ATP Tour. The sight of four walls and a roof had put him off his stroke in 15 matches.

Those expecting Costa to run for the barricades at the first flourish of Rusedski's serve must have been surprised at the way the match unfolded. Although Rusedski won, 7-6, 6-1 after an hour and 18 minutes, he needed 10 set points to secure the first set, winning the tie-beak 7-5.

"It was just nerves," Rusedski said. "I had love-40 two times and dumped six returns in the bottom of the net. I have to be happy that I came out winning the set. I lost my serve once in the second set, and broke him every other time.

"Playing Albert was quite a difficult transition. All day I thought I was playing Marcelo, and all of a sudden your frame of mind changes because you're playing a guy who has never won a match indoors. You feel the pressure, because it's one of those matches you feel you should never lose indoors. So I was a bit tight in there today, as you probably noticed."

Costa's indoor record will need to improve dramatically if Rusedski's prospects are to survive beyond this afternoon. Even if Rusedski manages to defeat Henman, he can only advance to the semi-finals if Costa beats Corretja afterwards in an all-Spanish duel. Otherwise, Corretja will join Henman in the last four. "Tanya Harding is flying in, so you never know," Rusedski joked.

Corretja's performance against Henman suggested that he would be the man to go through to play Sampras in the semi-finals as the runner-up in White Group. Henman will play the winner of today's concluding round-robin in Red Group between Carlos Moya, of Spain, and the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

The closest Henman and Corretja came to losing their concentration in a tense opening set yesterday was when a linesman corrected a call and Henman, in mid-shot, lobbed the ball into the rafters, where it lodged.

Leading up to the first set tie-break, Henman dropped only five points off serve, Corretja eight. Henman's game remained steady during the shoot-out, whereas his opponent made one error, hitting a backhand wide down the line for 2-3. Henman clinched the set, 7-4, with an ace down the centre.

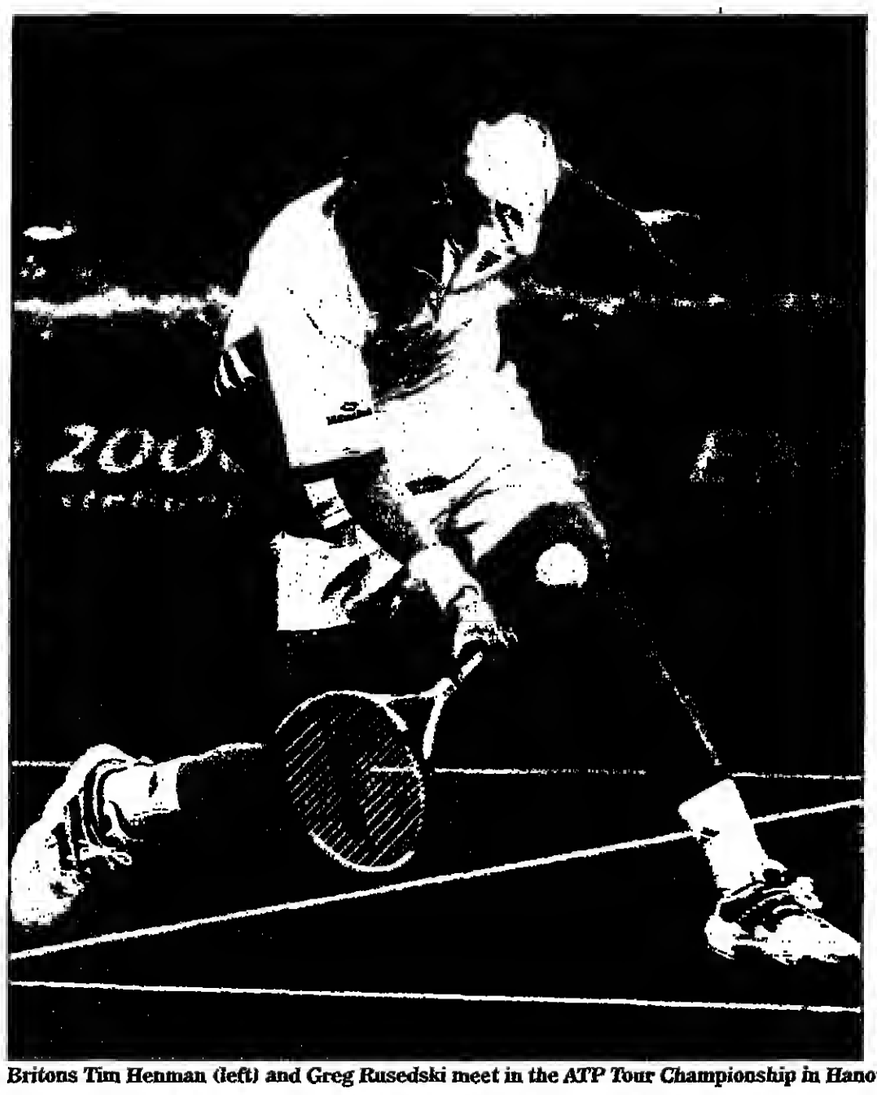
There were four service breaks in the second set, Henman disappointed to double-fault to offer Corretja the chance to recover from 1-3. Henman then hit two poor returns from 0-30 on the Spaniard's serve when leading 6-5. Corretja made the most of the reprieve and won the tie-break 7-4.

As with Henman after the opening set, Corretja made the mistake of relaxing after taking the second. He was broken in the first game, after which Henman attacked at every opportunity, breaking a second time for 3-0 with a superb lob.

"I got a little bit nervous at the end of the second set," Henman said. "I was trying to do the right thing, but I don't think my legs were really helping me. The court seemed to get very sticky. I think that happens. You get a bit nervous and your feet don't move quite as well as you hope. I missed a couple of bad shots. I had to be stubborn. I had to persevere with my tactics [to be aggressive] and believe in that. That's definitely the way it unfolded."

Henman believes there is no pressure on him going into today's match against Rusedski. "I definitely don't like losing any matches, but it's a good situation for me to be in, having already qualified for the semi-finals," he said. "But there's still a lot to play for. Greg does still have an opportunity. Everybody knows we have a pretty healthy rivalry. We'll be extra keen to beat each other."

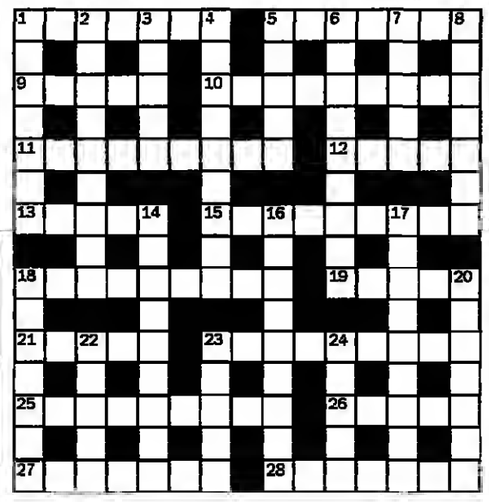
ATP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Hanover) Today: C Moya (Sp) v Y Kafelnikov (Rus); T Henman (GB) v G Rusedski (GB); A Corretja (Sp) v A Costa (Sp).



Britons Tim Henman (left) and Greg Rusedski meet in the ATP Tour Championship in Hanover today after both men enjoyed victories in their round-robin matches yesterday AP

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3779 Friday 27 November **by Spurius**



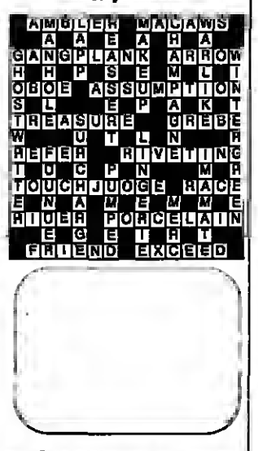
ACROSS

1 Dull girl in picture (7)
5 Greek character with very loud lorry engine regrets initially having US silencer (7)
9 Sets out overnight, perhaps to obtain effective force (5)
10 Subordinate to pass on secret (9)
11 Where planes are grounded and trunks are labelled (9)
12 A house secured by youth organisations' leaders is rough (5)
13 Cheer for Earl now dead (5)
15 As articles in America primarily tend to depict Kent? (9)
18 Purely descriptive of spiritual healing? (9)
19 Prize in a raffle returned (5)
21 Character part came to nothing (5)
23 Pole, man presented by Iris (9)
25 Wife goes to pub beside new farm building (5,4)
26 Drink measure, i.e. pint, one quaffed by commander (5)
27 Aquatic creature is obliged to run around flood rescue vessel backwards (7)
28 Black mark disfigured red item (7)

DOWN

1 Spot, for instance, favourite celebrity (3-4)
2 Superior table jettisoned (9)
3 Hate being a nuisance endlessly hanging round hospital (5)
4 Mistress enacts our fancy (9)
5 Wild American, a formidable woman (5)
6 Flowering shrub is frothy, out by beginning of August (9)
7 Lead seal melted by heat originally (5)
8 Old soldier, or cadet in training (7)
14 Hate chore grudgingly carried out with reciprocity? (4,5)
16 Several parts of Arundel around north and east deliberately forgotten (9)
17 Change includes a plinth, mostly made from ornamental gypsum (9)
18 First man to put on waterproof road surface (7)
20 Quick to conceal large company's financial loss (7)
22 Subject introduced by master at high school (5)
23 Celebration of Easter somewhat reduced (5)
24 Tornado making way round Madagascar (5)

Thursday's solution



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England hierarchy happy with Atherton's hook

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON
in Perth

ENGLAND WILL instruct Michael Atherton to carry on hooking if he believes that is the best way to combat the new-ball threat of Glenn McGrath when their personal duel resumes in the second Test at the WACA tomorrow.

Atherton was dismissed for 28 in the first Test in Brisbane when McGrath snared him for the 11th time in their last eight matches, on this occasion caught at fine leg before England were saved from defeat by an electrical storm.

It was the fourth time in 15 months Atherton had fallen victim to the hook shot – and one McGrath is happy to see him play in his bid to continue his stranglehold over a batsman the Australians have nicknamed "cockroach" because of the difficulties they normally have in "stamping" him out.

But neither England coach David Lloyd nor captain Alec Stewart will instruct Atherton to cut out the shot and will be happy to see him hooking at will on Perth's pacy and bouncy pitch. "I wouldn't insult his intelligence," said Lloyd. "He's got nearly 6,000 Test runs and if he is happy hooking then I'm sure he knows what he's doing. Before McGrath got him out, Athers hooked two or three times very well in Brisbane – I was more concerned with one or two of our tailenders who came in and tried hooking first ball thinking they were Roy Fredericks."

Lloyd's view is shared by Stewart, who insisted: "He can play as he wants. He will play his own way, and everyone in this squad will have their own game plan – just because you get out doing one thing, you don't have to stop doing it.

"The ball that got him out went away from him, and he ended up dragging it from outside off stump – and that's why it ended the way it did. That shot has got him a lot of runs, and he will weigh up how much success and how much failure it brings him."

The England thinking is likely to come as music to McGrath's ears on a rock hard pitch. "I've never really played on it when it's been a normal pacy WACA wicket, and it's important not to get carried away on it," said McGrath.

"It's easy to do that with bouncy wickets, putting it in short and watching it fly through to the wicketkeeper, but you don't want to fall into that trap."

HOW McGRATH HAS TAMED ATHERTON

Michael Atherton has been dismissed by Glenn McGrath 11 times in the last eight Tests in which they have both played.

February 1995, Perth	
c Healy b McGrath	4
c Healy b McGrath	8
June 1997, Edgbaston	
c Healy b McGrath	2
not out	57
June 1997, Lord's	
c Taylor b McGrath	1
hit wicket b Kasprowicz	77
July 1997, Old Trafford	
c Healy b McGrath	5
lbw b Gillespie	21
July 1997, Headingley	
c Gillespie b McGrath	41
c Warne b McGrath	2
July 1997, Trent Bridge	
c Healy b Warne	27
c Healy b McGrath	8
August 1997, The Oval	
c Healy b McGrath	8
c S Waugh b Kasprowicz	8
November 1998, Brisbane	
c M Waugh b McGrath	0
c Fleming b McGrath	28

Smith in new attack on chairman

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

THE EVERTON manager, Walter Smith, aimed a fresh broadside at his club chairman Peter Johnson last night – and put his job on the line. The furious Goodison Park manager is upset at suggestions he was aware of Duncan Ferguson's £8m sale to Newcastle United.

Yesterday Smith was forced to sell the young midfielder Gavin McCann as a further Goodison Park cost-cutting measure. The 20-year-old Blackpool-born player, who joined Everton as a trainee, was expected to complete a £500,000 move to Sunderland late last night.

Smith's latest statements will put Johnson on the spot as the pair grow further apart. "At no time was I consulted about Duncan's transfer," Smith said.

"Last week I was made aware by a number of people that attempts were being made by the club to attract offers for Duncan Ferguson. I ignored this because the chairman had indicated to me that there was interest but it did not constitute any kind of transfer. On Monday morning I received the same information and with the rumours going around I felt it necessary to talk to Duncan as his manager.

"I spoke to him and told him that I felt moves were afoot to try and sell him and that I would speak to the chairman before the game to try and clarify the situation. That meeting never took place and unknown to me Duncan was transferred to Newcastle during the match. I stress at no time was I made aware that Newcastle had made an official bid and more to the point that the club had accepted it and Duncan was in talks with a view to a transfer."

Johnson's desire to balance the books ahead of a sale has left the manager in a hopeless position. Smith pulled back from resigning on Tuesday, but his future looks doubtful. Any new owner may want bring in his own man.

Lens are to send a videotape of their 1-0 Champions' League victory over Arsenal to Uefa in an attempt to prove that their striker Tony Vairelles should not have been sent off in the last minute. Vairelles, known in France as a model of fair play, was shown a red card for apparently elbowing Arsenal's Lee Dixon seconds after Ray Parlour had been sent off. Lens officials said the tapes showed Dixon had feigned injury.

Vairelles' automatic suspension for the Group E decider against Dynamo Kiev next month in Lens would be a great loss for the French champions, who will also be without midfielder Cyril Rool and defender Eric Sikora, both booked twice.

Tottenham are considering increasing their £4m bid for West Ham's England Under-21 international midfielder Frank Lampard. The West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, already upset at having to sell Andy Impey to Leicester for financial reasons, said he turned down the offer "in 10 seconds flat". Tottenham's director of football, David Pleat, said yesterday: "A bid was made and we're discussing the situation further."

Glenn Moore, page 3

THE INDEPENDENT 27 November 1998

FRIDAY REVIEW

Killer on the prowl

When Nigel Shelton came across the body of a mutilated cat, it was all in a bloody day's work for an RSPCA inspector. Nine months and several dozen bodies later, he knows 'something very weird is going on'. Theories abound, from ritual sacrifice by Satanists to the random cruelty of hooligans. But the real fear is that the London Cat Ripper has his sights set on bigger prey

BY PAUL VALLELY

It is in the most suburban of streets that evil reaches its full mediocrity. Nigel Shelton was driving me in his RSPCA van round Palmers Green – all pebble-dash Edwardian villas, pollarded poplars and autumnal parks – when the radio crackled into life. "A rabbit has been found, decapitated, with its ears chopped off and a slit down its side, in a builders' yard in Edmonton," the voice said in a matter-of-fact tone. Here we go again, said Shelton.

In this part of north London, this kind of thing has become a gruesome commonplace. For several months now the carcasses of pet cats and rabbits have been found mutilated here, with their heads and tails removed as if with a cleaver. After some part of their body has been removed, as in a ritual or trophy, their remains have been left in or near their owner's gardens. Many have been left with their heads placed beside the bodies. One cat even, apparently, had had its blood drained. Another had had its brain removed without leaving any traces of blood on the body.

Nigel Shelton, an RSPCA inspector, is leading a team nf six inspectors and police officers who met this week to pool their intelligence on the outbreak of these violent mutilations. The killer, who has been dubbed the Cat Ripper, began in February but has stepped up his activity in the last three months. At first the bizarre killings seemed confined to the Barnet area of north London, but they have now spread, in clusters, through the south and east of the capital and into the leafy affluence of Surrey. The number of cats reported missing has also risen over the same period.

"At first I thought it must be a fox, or even an unusual kind of road traffic accident, but the injuries are not consistent with that," Shelton said. "I've gathered enough information to say there is something very weird going on."

Acts like this strike deep into the psyche of the communities on which they are inflicted. They combine a fascination with the macabre with an assault on people's sense of decency. It is one of those crimes in whose very irrationality lies its power. It is a metaphor for the sickness within our society, but it also plays on those dark, atavistic fears which persist even if they are barely acknowledged in our scientific worldview. But there is more to it than that. Evidence is now emerging of a link between wanton cruelty to animals and violence against humans. New research is suggesting a correlation between the two, and reveals that a significant number of serial killers began by acting out their fantasies against animals.

It would be tempting to dismiss the gruesome incidents as the work of one sad, inadequate individual. Dr Richard Ryder, a clinical psychologist who is also a trustee of the RSPCA, cautions against that. "This is not casual violence," he warns. "These highly calculated attacks suggest a seriously disturbed individual."

The attacks are not a new phenomenon. They carry striking echoes of the mutilation of horses that reached dramatic proportions earlier this decade, in which more than 160 horses were stabbed and sexually mutilated.

There has been no evidence of sexual activity around the carcasses of the cats and rabbits. "Or at least none that has been seen – not that we were looking for it," said Shelton. Even so, the forensic clinical psychologist Susan Hope-Borland does not discount the possibility.

"It could just be extreme sadism, and sadomasochism is part of the sexual spectrum; I have had patients for whom blood is an extreme turn-on," she says.

But if horses symbolise the wild beast and our urge to overcome it, the mythology of the cat is rather different. The motivation of the Cat Ripper may be banal; the cat may be his target simply because it is the most common and easily accessible of urban animals. But it might speak from some dark core of unreason. "Cats are creatures of the night," says Professor Linzey, an Anglican priest who is researching the theological and ethical aspects of animal welfare at Mansfield College, Oxford. "Somewhere deep within us they still represent the forces of darkness – the cat is the demonic, the witch's familiar, Satan's favourite form. All that medieval belief is still deeply ingrained in us."

At the RSPCA, Nigel Shelton is a little impatient with the Satanist hypothesis. And yet he is determined to remain open-minded. "It could be Satanists. No explanation is too far-fetched," he said, as we approached the builders' yard where the decapitated rabbit had been found. "But so far, we have no evidence, and no explanation is too simple."

What is clear is the force of the animus someone has against cats – or perhaps against their owners. "It is difficult to generalise," says Susan Hope-Borland. "It could be directed against the owners of the pets in particular but there's no reason to suppose that. It could be someone who lacked care as a child and is resentful of the care lavished on pets. It might be displaced anger against human beings in general. It could be anything."

"It could be simply a neurotic hatred arising out of some negative experience in relation to cats," says Professor Linzey. "But the ritual aspect of it – the severing of heads and tails, the removal of trophies – seems particularly perverted. That's what makes it much more morally significant than acts of random cruelty."

No doubt he is right about that. For we transfer on to animals our greatest loves and hates. As the names of the dead pets reveal – Daisy, Mabel, Bunking – animals bring out our greatest generosity and vulnerability. They bring out our guilt, too; we leave them alone for long periods while we are at work, and then try to compensate with gourmet pet treats at a cost which would feed an Ethiopian family for a week. We even project on to them the values of our quick-fix age, with the canine equivalents of Prozac to combat their urban neuroses. Small wonder then that, for some people, their deepest anger is transferred to animals too.

As Professor Linzey says: "This killer puts in a lot of time and forethought – it's a formidable thing to spend one's time doing."

But the Metropolitan Police is concerned with more than metaphors. Research from the United States has established a clear link between cruelty to animals and to children. "Evidence has been found of what we came to suspect some time ago – that there is a correlation between cruelty in animals early in life and violence against humans later," says Dr Ryder. A number of serial killers have been discovered to have killed animals as children. In the US, the mass murderer, Jeffrey Dahmer, cut up animals as a child and impaled their heads on sticks to frighten other children. And in more than 80 per cent of America's playground killings, cruelty to animals has been identified in the killers' backgrounds. In Britain, one of the boys who killed James Bulger regularly pulled the heads nff pigeons. In childhood, says Dr Ryder, systematic cruelty to animals – especially when linked to arson and, bizarrely, to bedwetting – are part of a triad of symptoms which can indicate a disposition to extreme violence in adulthood.

Furthermore, in a high number of cases where children abuse animals, the youngsters are themselves victims of sexual and physical abuse or emotional and physical neglect. Full of extreme anger and resentment, they then find their own victims upon whmn to act it out. "They often rehearse, mentally in fantasies, and physically on animals," says Susan Hope-Borland, "with the abuse escalating in seriousness as time goes by."

The psychologists agree that the Cat Ripper mutilations could quite easily be perpetrated, not by a single individual, but by a gang of yonths led by some highly disturbed but charismatic leader. For them, newspaper talk about Satanism would offer a notoriety which might compensate for their sense of powerlessness in daily life – and their anger at that. "If that is the case, a study of the geographical pattern of the offences might be as productive as psychological profiling," says Susan Hope-Borland.

That is exactly what Nigel Shelton and his colleagues this week began. "We are mapping the attacks, their proximity to arterial routes and so on," he said. "We are classifying the animals according to the type of injury, the location, the type of owner. And we have begun forensic testing to show what the cats died of and how the mutilation was done."

We had reached Edmonton and the builders' yard. "There are several lines of investigation we're following, though obviously I can't say what they are," he said, and went in to collect the carcass of the headless rabbit.

The article 'Clear and Present Danger' which appeared on the front of the Tuesday Review was wrongly attributed to Simon Carr: The author was, in fact, Phil Davison. Our apologies.

INSIDE

DESIGN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Hong Kong in the Rain No 5: The neon signs and bamboo scaffolding of Hong Kong Island — *Edward Webb*

Aids vaccine hope

Sir: Jeremy Laurance ("Aids spreads on a Biblical scale", 25 November) states that "the prospect of an Aids vaccine remains a distant hope".

Over thirty million people around the world are living with HIV and Aids. Eight thousand five hundred people become infected every day and over 90 per cent of these cases are in developing countries.

It is time to give significantly more weight to HIV vaccine development. However, of all the money that is currently spent on HIV and Aids treatment, prevention and research, only 1 per cent is spent on Aids vaccine development.

Money is not going to come readily from commercial drug companies. Why should a company invest in a "one-shot" deal when it can develop drugs that people have to take every day for the rest of their lives? Unless the development of an HIV vaccine becomes an international priority, there will be no vaccine.

In a written parliamentary answer to me (3 November 1998) *Clare Short said that the* Government had given £200,000 to the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and £300,000 of the Department for International Development's overall grant to the Medical Research Council went to support research into an HIV vaccine. *A further £300,000* is committed for 1998/9. Yet surely this is not enough.

In the past scientists have conquered other deadly diseases by a vaccine. According to Dr Seth Berkley, President of IAVI, we know more about HIV than any other virus.

An HIV vaccine should not be seen as a "distant hope" but with combined effort a workable reality.
Dr JENNY TONGE MP
Liberal Democrat International Development Spokesperson
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: Your report singles out Uganda as one country in Africa where HIV infection among pregnant women has fallen. You fail to mention, however, that *increased condom use* and improved sexual health education are not the only reasons for this reduction.

One of the unique features of the Ugandan Aids scene is the government's openness on the subject, so that everyone can talk about what elsewhere in Africa may be a taboo subject, thus facilitating the transmission of health information.

Even more important is the quite extraordinary way in which Aids widows have organised themselves into self-help groups, assisting each other to manage their lives, their income-generation, agriculture, health needs and the education of their children (often HIV-infected) so that they can manage economically without the need for sexual partnerships with men.

One lesson to be learnt from the Ugandan experience is that much greater support needs to be given to the widows of men who have died of Aids.

These poor women are often blamed for their husbands' illness and are rarely followed up with medical monitoring and practical help. Their wretched circumstances, poverty, oppression and stigma often force them to be dependent on a series of men, thus risking either transmitting or receiving the virus.

Alongside condoms and sex education, the best defence to the spread of Aids in Africa is promoting the status of women and supporting grass-roots widows' groups such as those which have been so successful in Uganda.
MARGARET OWEN
Director
Empowering Widows in Development
London W14

Sir: The slogan for this year's World Aids Day is "Force for change, World Aids campaign with young people".

Slogans are well and good but we need action. The number of people between 16 and 24 being *diagnosed HIV positive is growing.* Without an equal age of consent, an end to Section 28, and decent sex education in schools, this is unlikely to change.

Section 28 of the Local Government Act, forbidding the "promotion of homosexuality" by councils, continues to frighten schools from offering sex education for young lesbians and gay men.

A responsible society should be only too eager to take the opportunity to educate young people and prevent unnecessary suffering.

Meanwhile people with HIV continue to experience direct discrimination. As people live longer due to combination therapies, they need help with employment. For young people this might mean specialist training as they have no previous employment record.

Opposition in the Lords lost the Equal Age of Consent legislation (the Government didn't send that back five times).

And opposition in the Lords is being used as the excuse to delay removing Section 28.
JOHN NICHOLSON
George House Trust
Manchester

Sir: Your coverage of Aids juxtaposes Nigel Wrench, with his costly cocktail of treatment which has so far arrested the progress of his disease, and the millions in Africa unable to afford a treatment which is likely to cost the UK £300m a year by 2002.

I am not intending to say that Aids sufferers should not be treated but I wonder about the priorities of a health service in which: treatment after a stroke or other disease requiring rehabilitative care is greatly reduced once a patient reaches a certain age, usually 60; multiple sclerosis sufferers are being deprived of beta interferon by some health authorities on grounds of cost; and diabetics and schizophrenics are often given older, inferior treatment on the *grounds of cost*, despite severe side effects.

These patients have not had any choice about their disease. They could not have avoided it by choosing a different lifestyle. By contrast, Aids, smoking-related diseases, alcohol- and drug-related diseases and requests for abortion have usually come about because someone has taken a calculated risk.

If there is a limited pot from which health care costs can be met, is it not fair to ask the risk-takers to take some responsibility for the possible cost to the health service. Health insurance might be a start. If an insurance company will not cover you because of the risks you are taking, perhaps you need to ask yourself what other provision you should make and whether it really is worth the risk and the cost to others.
Mrs S ELLIS
Nantwich, Cheshire

Pub hours peril

Sir: I am continually amazed when reminded that Mr Allan Charlesworth, Chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers Liquor Licensing Committee, is still calling for pubs to be permitted to stay open for 24 hours a day ("Alcohol fuels rocketing violence in York", 23 November). The reason given is that this will reduce the incidence of drunken violence at closing time.

The all-too-obvious problem with this recommendation is that it focuses on only one aspect of a far more pervasive problem. Were Mr Charlesworth and his colleagues to look beyond their narrow remit, they would quickly realise that there is growing anxiety about the health implications for Britain of increasing consumption of alcohol.

Indeed, *The Nation's Health, a Strategy for the 1990s* calls for a clearly defined long-term strategy for the reduction of alcohol consumption.

If this is not enough for Mr Charlesworth and colleagues, alcohol consumption is also implicated in 14 per cent of road accidents, crime, drugs and domestic violence, all issues of current concern and of more than passing interest to others of their colleagues in the police force.

It is increasingly hard to fathom why anyone, let alone the police Liquor Licensing Committee, would be promoting greater access to alcohol.
Professor DAVID J BALL
Norwich

IN BRIEF

Sir: The answer to Anne McElvoy's question "If we're all to be commoners, why keep the pomp and ceremony?" (Review, 25 November) is that they are fun and cheer people up, even old republicans like me. If she had seen the helmets and breastplates of the Blues and Royals glistening in the sunshine as they emerged from Horse Guards and left-wheeled on their beautiful black mounts into the Mall, and heard the delighted comments of the crowd as the Queen passed, she'd see what I mean.
EDWARD MACE
London N5

Sir: Miles Kington ("Been there, done that, and he's still only 90", 23 November) suggests that Alastair Cooke's longevity may have something to do with the fact that he plays piano.

Amassing knowledge for the pub quiz, I learn that in Shakespeare's time few people lived past 60; that in 1931, in this country, life expectancy for a man was 58.4 years; and (from the notes accompanying a CD of *concerti grossi*) that the average age of the composers Corelli, Scarlatti, Albinoni, Vivaldi, Manfredini, Geminiani, Locatelli and Sammartini, when they died, was 70. They all played the piano, or something similar.
LEIGHTON SMITH
Solihull,
West Midlands

Sir: As every schoolgirl knows there are lies, damned lies and statistics ("Women students miss out on firsts", 23 November). In my discipline, chemical engineering, once a male preserve, women now constitute approximately 20 per cent of the undergraduates. They are represented out of all proportion in the top degree classifications. Two years ago, of the 11 firsts, eight went to women. Perhaps the "maverick" gene necessary to gain a first is slowly being lost from the Y chromosome and the hard work put in by women students is finally beginning to pay off.
Dr GILBERT SHAMA
Lecturer
University of Loughborough

Sir: Perhaps Mr Thomson is correct when he says that about 10,000 Dutch people carry "anti-euthanasia" passports (letter, 26 November). However, euthanasia is far from "dead" in Holland. Hundreds of thousands of Dutch are members of the Euthanasia Society and carry "pro-euthanasia" passports. When I still lived in Holland, I was one of them.
MAYKE HOGESTIJN
Radnage,
Buckinghamshire

Powers to arrest

Sir: I suppose we should cease to be disappointed at the pitifully self-seeking and astonishingly ill-informed reactions from the Police Federation and Association of Magisterial Officers to the proposal to "give private security firms the power to arrest people" in breach of court judgements (report, 24 November).

The magistrates' spokeswoman stressed the superiority of the public sector for enforcing fines. Why? It appears that fines are not being collected now, so why not use the skills of debt-collecting agencies, if this can be done in a cost-effective way?

The Police Federation spokesman argues that "difficult and sometimes violent individuals" can only be successfully dealt with by the police.

He is clearly unfamiliar with the operation of hospital casualty departments on Friday nights, with city centre pubs and clubs at weekends, with benefits agency offices, with almost every public service occupation, in fact.

Understanding and dealing with violence is a skill that can be taught — and not just to the police. When he turns to the "accountability" of those empowered to arrest, recent history is not overwhelmingly on the side of the police! What it does suggest is that there is an urgent need for the Government to introduce state regulation of the security industry.

Finally, he appears to suggest that powers of arrest should remain solely with the police. We all have the right as citizens to make an arrest.

This is, in reality, the power any private security officer exercises when apprehending and detaining a shoplifter, an event that occurs many hundreds of times every day. So what makes this new proposal so mould-breaking?
KEITH HEARNDEN
Loughborough,
Leicestershire

Justice for tyrants

Sir: The Law Lords' decision to overturn the judgement of the high court is the only one acceptable ("Anita Gonzalez lost her family in the Pinochet years. For her, and countless others, justice was done yesterday", 26 November).

The concept of sovereign immunity, allowing a head of state involved in systematic state-sponsored abuse of human rights to be protected from prosecution is abhorrent. Such an attitude would allow any tyrant to escape the consequences of their actions.

The principle expressed by one of the law lords that a serving head of state does benefit from sovereign immunity is appalling – and, thankfully, inconsistent with the Government's attitude to the Iraqi leader.

The suggestion, raised by some of Pinochet's sympathisers, that Margaret Thatcher or the Queen could be prosecuted for crimes committed during the Falkland's war, for example, is ridiculous. There is no question that such events were deliberate government policy.
SIMON GRANT
Birmingham

Sir: William Hague's statement about the continued detention of General Pinochet is appalling. To say that "... we should have sufficient respect now for the people of Chile to say enough is enough ..." and call for his release is staggering, displaying disrespect for the Chilean people.

The dictator's reign of brutal suppression cost thousands of lives. As head of the secret police, he cannot reasonably disclaim responsibility for this.

Before standing down, he amended the Chilean constitution, both that he might remain immune from prosecution and also to allow his continued influence to permeate the country. Chile is still a democracy under siege. For the leader of the Conservative Party to suggest otherwise is dumb-founding.

Pinochet shows no remorse whatsoever. He jokes about "the disappeared" and the discovery of mass graves.

Let us hope that Jack Straw does not take a similar view to William Hague, and let this monster off the hook.
PAUL METZ
London EN5

Sir: On Wednesday evening a French friend, a retired worker-priest whom we had not heard from for four years, rang us up from Brittany. He had just heard the news of the House of Lords decision on the Pinochet appeal and wanted to congratulate us and all British people. It was, he said, British justice at its best.
JOHN DURANT
MARGARET DURANT
Bristol

Sir: I had never thought of Baroness Thatcher as being an exponent of exquisite irony, but after her plea for the release of Augusto Pinochet on "compassionate grounds" she has gone up considerably in my estimation.
MICHAEL BRYANT
Carnforth, Lancashire

Down on the farm

Sir: A number of letters from farmers have complained about their lot, and I'm trying to feel some sympathy, but it's not easy.

As far back as I can remember, some section of the *farming* community has been complaining. I appreciate that it was always going to be difficult to find anyone to say: "It was an incredible year and I don't know where I'm going to put all of the money."

However, I'm curious about their remarkable fall-off in income; down by 50 per cent seems to be a common figure. I gather prices have fallen. The middlemen must be rolling it in, because there's no evidence of falling prices in the shops.
JOHN HALL
Dawley, Shropshire

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that random swing

MILES KINGTON

There they were, crouching in showcases, watches like monstrous toads with warty knobs

DID YOU see the feature in this paper recently on some things which looked at first sight like German mines fished out of the North Sea, all encrusted with knobs and dials and barnacles? And which turned out on inspection to be wristwatches?

These technological wonders are not just designer'a fantasies. They really exist. I recently went into a watch shop to look for a birthday present for my 11-year-old son and there *they all* were, crouching in showcases, looking at me threateningly, watches like monstrous toads with warty knobs. But their opposites were there too. At the other extreme there were watches so slim and so understated that they looked like extra strong peppermints with hands stuck on. In other words, at one end of the scale you got watches with all the works hanging out, like the walls of what the French call the Beaubourg and we still call the Pompidou Centre, and at the other end of the scale watches which hardly revealed anything, not even the time.

It represents a simultaneous swing to both ends on the old public peodulum of taste.

I heard this best expressed years ago when I was working on *Punch* magazine and somebody noticed that the circulation figures were going down. I don't know why he was surprised. Circulation had been going down since the late 1940s, from the peak figures produced by the Second World War. There was nothing new about it.

But every now and again someone thought something should be done, and instead of doing the obvious thing (fire the editor, or, at the very least, promote another World War) they quite often hired a man to redesign the magazine. So a designer would come in and do things and we would be given a new look and the designer would go away and the circulation would go on declining gracefully...

"It's always the same thing," the Art Editor, Bill Hewison said to me one day. "Whatever changes a designer thinks he is going to make, *he basically only does one thing. He* changes the rules."

(By "rules", Bill meant the long black dividing lines which separate articles in a newspaper, or which can be used, four at a time, to make a box. In fact, now I come to look at the box round this piece, they can be used *eight* at a time.)

"If a designer finds that the pages he is redesigning are full of rules," continued Bill, "he says, 'Let's get rid of all these rules cluttering up the place and have lots of lovely white space!' But if there aren't any rules, he'll say "There's too much emptiness and everything is running into each other – we'll put in some nice rules to make things neat and divide them up to help the eye...' But all they're doing, really, is the opposite of what the last guy did. Then they pocket their fee and stroll off."

(Have a look at the current *Radio Times*, if you don't believe this. They're going through a bit of a rules-OK phase at the moment. Every column is divided from the next by a rule, sometimes two, sometimes red, sometimes black... Indeed, every page has a black line running along the top before you even get to the day's date.)

And now it's happening to watches, too. Somebody thought they looked too clean and featureless and decided to put lots of lovely humps on. It happens to lots of things, this swing of taste. It happens to car design. It happens to clothes design. It happens to office design. ("Too much empty space! Let's put in lots of dividers and corners... Too many dividers! Let's have some space...") It happens even to popular music – do you remember when everyone got a bit tired of electronic clutter and went unplugged and acoustic? For a while.

I do believe it's happening to wine labels as well. Wine labels are tending to get less cluttered and less fiddly, more "well-designed". This is partly done by removing less essential information. But the information reappears at the back of the bottle on another secondary or even tertiary label which has recently come into being to accommodate all the stuff removed by the designer from the front label.

Frankly, the labels I prefer are the ones which have *never* been redesigned, the labels of things like aperitifs and vermouths and liqueurs which still show tiny pictures of the original factory, and signatures of the original maker, and replicas of the gold medals won at the Great Exhibition of 1901...

That's a thought. Whatever happened to all those gold and silver medals given in open contest at every Expo to things you could eat and drink, which were so treasured they stayed on the label for a hundred years? Why aren't they being awarded any more? Haven't we missed a trick at the Millennium 2000 celebrations?

Over to you, Mr Mandelson.

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A dynamic nation that is a blueprint for modern Britain

THERE IS one European nation which, more than any other, provides a model for Tony Blair's ambition to re-brand Britain as a modernised "young country". It is a nation which has shaken off the burden of its obsession with history, its bitterness towards its neighbour and the obscurantism of its conservative constitution and established church. It is a country which now has a dynamic economy and a self-confident outlook on the world.

That country is the Republic of Ireland, and Mr Blair's speech to the Irish parliament yesterday, the first by a British prime minister, was a symbol of the new relationship between the two parts of what was once a single nation. It has been true for some time, although it takes an event like this to jolt perceptions, that the British have ceased to look down on the Irish, and that the Irish have ceased to feel a sense of inferiority in relation to their former oppressors.

The Republic's remake over the past 20 years has been more radical than anything Mr Blair now proposes for Britain. Eamon de Valera, fighter for Irish independence and author of the culturally nationalistic, Roman Catholic, inward-looking 1937 constitution, was still Irish president as recently as 1973. He famously thought of Irish women as homemakers and "comely maidens dancing at crossroads". Now, two of them have sat in his presidential office. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church still has privileged status in the Irish constitution, and liberal British opinion has been condescending about the difficulty of persuading the Irish electorate to endorse modernisation of the law on abortion and divorce in referendums. But at least the Republic has a written constitution which can be amended democratically, and despite all the hoo-ha about Mr Blair's purge of the hereditary peerage, the Church of England's bishops are still to be allowed to legislate for all faiths and none.

And, for all the prejudice about the Republic as a socially conservative, illiberal society, a telling detail yesterday was the fact that Mr Blair's speech was watched from the public gallery by the Irish prime minister's current partner, Celia Larkin. It would be interesting to see how the British system of organised hypocrisy would deal with a separated prime minister's new companion.

Bertie Ahern's hint that the Republic might rejoin the Commonwealth shows how the Irish are now moving on from the past. And the old relationship between backward and advanced parts of the British Isles could be reversed when the Republic leads the way into the euro. By 2002, when euro notes and coins are introduced, Ireland could be part of a dominant economic bloc encircling the UK.

We look forward to Mr Ahern then addressing a joint session of the UK parliament, explaining how Britain, too, could become a successful, modern European nation.

A sense of déjà vu – but this time let's act

FUNNY HOW some things have just picked up in 1998 where the last Labour government left off in 1979. Then, an eminent doctor recommended a whacking rise in child benefit as the way to tackle inequalities in health – in the Black Report, buried by the Conservatives. Yesterday, Sir Donald Acheson recommended the same thing after his 16-month investigation. In the meantime, of course, assumptions about the use of taxes and benefits to redistribute income have changed out of all recognition – especially among the Labour leadership. This may account for the fact that, while Sir Douglas Black urged a specific figure for child benefit, equivalent to about £20 a week now, Sir Donald's recommendations come without price tags.

This allows the Government the easy way out, which is to welcome the report and point to all the things that are already being done to tackle social exclusion. Fortunately, one member of Sir Donald's committee suggested at yesterday's press conference that benefits for families with children needed to rise by a quarter. That figure – which is not in the report – should force the Government to engage with the argument. It has already raised child benefit, but not by a quarter, and wants to pursue a parallel strategy of trying to get lone parents and the unemployed into work.

This is the right way to deal with benefit-dependency, but there are other groups for whom the labour market cannot be the ladder out of poverty: poor pensioners and the disabled. The Government has yet to define what "welfare reform" means for them, and how it will strike the balance between means-testing and universality – except that it did not like Frank Field's radically universal approach. If Sir Donald succeeds in prompting a specific response from the Government in respect of these groups, his 16 months' work will have been well worthwhile.

A triumph of banality

NOW WE know what is going to be in the Millennium Dome, have our socks been blown off, as Peter Mandelson promised they would be? We would like to believe in it, really we would, but our socks remain resolutely and snugly around our toes. A 30-metre high, 60-metre long "couple in gentle embrace", called *The Body*, sponsored by Boots the Chemist, will be the centrepiece. Is that it? Can this trade fair of banality really be the best that the best of British creative minds can come up with? A construction project which started with no idea of what to put in it was bound to end up as a hideous embarrassment. And so it proves. Most depressing of all, of course, it remains true that the Dome will probably be a thundering success. The Jubilee line will be built, and most of us will go, if only to marvel at such a colossus of wasted public money.

Mr Blair sneaks Cool Britannia in through the back door

STEVE RICHARDS

No minister will dare utter the words ever again. But it has become the linchpin of government once more

WELCOME BACK to Cool Britannia. Now I know no one has actually dared to use the much-derided term over the past few days. Probably no minister will dare to utter the words ever again. But modernisation, a theme which Cool Britannia was supposed to convey, has become the linchpin of the Government's narrative once more.

Incongruously, the Queen mentioned the word in the second sentence of her speech this week, when she declared that the legislative programme would "focus upon the modernisation of the country". The bold declaration was a mere appetiser for what was to follow from her unlikely lips. There will be a "modern" NHS, legislation to "modernise" the youth courts, to "modernise" legal aid, and to "modernise" the welfare state, including "modernising" benefits for widows. Geddit? We stand for modernisation.

The theme has not been rammed home so persistently by the Queen, or anyone else, for quite some time. For the Government, with such a high reputation for presentation, has struggled to find a narrative which explains its wider purpose. The Third Way has been one such attempt, and is far from dead as far as Tony Blair is concerned. Indeed, the head of his policy unit, David Miliband, travels the world taking part in Third Way seminars. He has just returned from Brazil where, apparently, it is all the rage.

But even the most ardent adherents would accept that the Third Way has hardly caught the public imagination. In my view, it never will, as it is a term which can be applied to just about any thing. Nor, in its woolliness, does it do justice to the compelling synthesis of policies which New Labour has achieved so far.

Other catchlines come and go. There is "prudence with a purpose", which tends to make an appearance when Gordon Brown speaks, although Blair uses it as well. There have been "new dividing lines", "standards, not structures", and many other well-known phrases which have applied to specific policies. None of them have conveyed a sense of a coherent programme towards a recognised goal.

The theme of modernisation has been flirted with before, but was dropped when Cool Britannia became a joke. You will look in vain for any big speeches on this theme in the first nine months of the year. But now the Queen, not required yet to mouth the words "Third Way", has made clear that modernisation is the Government's overriding theme. There can be no going back on it now. Quite right too, because as a label it has the tactical advantages of the vagueness of the Third Way, but still gives genuinely a flavour of what this Government is all about.

New Labour tends to favour rhetoric which sounds decisive and strong, but actually leaves considerable room for manoeuvre. Stakeholding was dropped as a theme the moment it came to mean something. But "modernisation" is by no means a vacuous notion. It can be accurately applied to all the Government's policies in a way it could not have been to all of those pursued by the previous Conservative administrations.

New Labour is indisputably modernising the constitution in a way which makes the traditional rituals of the Queen's Speech look already more ridiculously dated than ever. Incidentally, in one of his interviews after the Speech, Tony Blair strongly defended the pageantry of the day when asked why it had not become more modern, saying how much he liked it personally. This is classic New Labour territory. It hints at modernising the ceremony, does little about it but creates an atmosphere where there is quite a clamour for its reform. At some point, Blair will act as an almost reluctant reformer, succumbing to public opinion, and scale down the pageantry, which is what he probably wanted to do in the first place.

But in a way which has been underestimated so far, the Government is also modernising the relationship between public spending and the delivery of services. This is the flip side of the debate about taxation, which tends to get all the attention. Before the election, Labour appeared to accept the Thatcherite consensus that public spending was sinful, starving Middle England taxpayers of the cash they needed to buy a second car or a better CD player. So stifling had this debate become that although Blair and Gordon Brown had decided privately in advance of the election to pump more money into education and health immediately afterwards, they did not dare say so.

Having won back some of the voters' trust on the issue of taxation, the debate is being moved on, in an attempt to convince voters that the Government can indeed be trusted to spend more of their money. This is why the reforms to the NHS and education that were highlighted in the Queen's speech are as important as the much more historic Lords reform. They will make more demands of teachers and doctors, in exchange for the substantial increase in spending in these areas.

The political stakes could not be higher. Voters need to notice a significant difference in these areas, so that a link can be made once more between higher spending and tangible improvements to their lives. There are, of course, risks in the modernisation theme. A country can never be truly modern with the chronic transport problems which afflict Britain. I never feel less "cool" than waiting for a train which never arrives, in the pouring rain on a vandalised railway platform. Nor are foreign tourists impressed. I recall one grim morning, feeling, and probably looking, like Basil Fawlty on a bad day, waiting on a platform reading a rain-sodden newspaper, which reported the plans for a Blair/Clinton summit that would take in a "modern" Conran restaurant. Next to me, a group of soaked American tourists whined: "This country is a shithole." We will not be truly modern until the trains run on time.

There is, though, one potentially huge political reward from the modernisation theme. The more the Conservatives oppose the policies associated with it, the more backward looking they will seem, clinging on to the past as the country moves forward. They were on the wrong side of the argument in the referendum for a Scottish parliament. They are on it again, in appearing to support the hereditary Lords. They will be so if they dance to the drumbeat of a backward-looking English nationalism, and oppose closer ties with Europe.

William Hague does not need to re-brand himself to appear "modern". His party needs to find ways of adapting its policies to the new terrain. In the same way that, in the Eighties, the "Labour party", as a name, became a vote loser, demanding a rechristening, the "Conservatives" may also have to think again. The name of their party no longer resonates, as Britain approaches the Millennium in a "cool" frame of mind.

Steve Richards is political editor of the 'New Statesman'

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's a real danger of a mayor being elected and then not being in a position to make the trains run on time."
Chris Patten, former Tory party chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry."
African proverb

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Reaction to the Law Lords' decision to allow the extradition of General Pinochet

THE ARGUMENTS of the Chilean government have not even been considered. Actions taken by the authorities to achieve the return of Senator Pinochet and, in this way, the recognition of Chilean sovereignty, have been completely useless. The implications are extremely serious for Chile. For the first time in history a foreign judge could try an ex-head of state against the opinion of his government and his country, disregarding Chilean laws in our own territory. The social peace of the country could be at stake.
El Mercurio, Chile

A REVOLUTIONARY legal precedent has been set. It is highly positive that the House of Lords set it, and in Britain, which has no historical conflict with Pinochet. It was an example of scrupulous legal rigour. Margaret Thatcher asked that he not be tried because he was "old, fragile and sick". Don't try to flog that argument to Spain: this country knows through bitter experience what an old, fragile and sick autocrat is capable of. The bases are being forged of what could and and should become a Justice without frontiers... an International Criminal Court, of which so much has been said, and until now so little done.
El Mundo, Spain

THE ARMY commander is urging drastic political action against the British government: declaring ambassadors to Chile "unwelcome" and curtailing armament purchases from Spain and Britain. The Navy is considering transferring a contract for submarines with a Spanish-French consortium to the French company.
The Santiago Times, Chile

FOR MANY democrats throughout the world, yesterday was a day of fiesta. Freeing Pinochet on grounds of sovereign immunity would have been an immoral act. Despite the anguish of Pinochet's supporters, the Chilean transition to democracy could be strengthened by this trial of fire. The transition began in 1990 under the condition that the dictator was invulnerable. He is not. The jubilation of so many in Chile shows that Chileans have lost their fear.
El Pais, Spain

PANDORA

IN HIS Commons speech on Wednesday, Tony Blair paid homage to the Internet. Naturally, Pandora quickly surfed to Downing Street's own website. Posted there were not Blair's actual words, but his pre-speech notes. This technological indiscretion offers a unique perspective on how our Prime Minister edits his scripted material at the despatch box. For example, his attack on Tory Leader William Hague's speech was prepared long *before* Hague had actually spoken. It included the slur on Hague for talking "more about the Paymaster General than about education or health". Pandora regrets, however, that Blair dropped one scripted insult about Hague: "He diddles and tiddles and fiddles." Can we look forward to this Mother Goose-like abuse being employed at a later date?

FOLLOWING PANDORA'S revelation that only 20 out of 108 new trains were in service on the London Underground, a reader telephoned with the suggestion that the first new Northern Line trains had been delivered three years ago – but were found to be too big for their tunnels. "We wanted the trains to be a little taller and a little longer," an LT spokeswoman admitted to Pandora. "They didn't bump the ceiling, but they were too high for something called the 'kinetic envelope'." Apparently the roofs had to be raised "a little", but "it was all part of the plan" she insisted, vehement that these modifications did not cause what now amounts to a seven months' delay. "It took longer because it took longer," she insisted. Just like most journeys on the Northern Line.

A SMALL TV production company, Meditel, has sent out a statement about their special feature for Channel 4 News on the "leading scientists who say the science behind the HIV/Aids hypothesis is wrong", to be broadcast on World Aids Day. According to Meditel's "experts", HIV has never been properly isolated or identified, making the HIV test unreliable. A few years back, Channel 4's *Dispatches* ran a series of programmes purporting to show that HIV does not cause Aids and that the epidemic was largely a myth. Those programmes were also produced by Meditel; their thesis has now been discredited by the scientific community. And when Pandora called Channel 4, it seems that Meditel's "seven-minute slot" will not take place after all. "They rather got carried away," said a Channel 4 spokeswoman diplomatically. "Their views will be represented in a studio discussion."

YET ANOTHER update on Kelvin Mackenzie's cunning innovations at Talk Radio. Having slashed the evening news coverage from three to one hours, yesterday morning the station's hourly news bulletins between 6am and 9am were all repeated in German. Read by Theo Koll, a journalist with German newspaper *De Bild*, they provided "a serious look at what life would be like in a more integrated Europe", according to a Talk Radio spokeswoman. Pandora suspects that we'll wait rather a long time before our news is broadcast in any language other than English. But, in the meantime, we just might hear Talk Radio's news being read by a bunny.

AFTER MAKING more editorial U-turns in the last few weeks than an Alpine goat track, *The Sun* yesterday launched a campaign that is certain to endure, at least so long as David Yelland remains editor. "We say: walk bald and walk proud," declares the leader, accompanying a page 6 article lauding men like West Ham striker Ian Wright and Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew, whose lack of hair doesn't effect their self-esteem. Sadly, there was neither mention nor photograph of editor Yelland's crowning and polished glory.

A COLLECTION of Oasis lyrics, songlists and album concepts will be auctioned at Christies next month. One unreleased song sheds fascinating light on the relationship between Noel (pictured) and Liam Gallagher. The brothers' relationship has always made an absorbing story, reaching a crescendo when Noel walked out of Oasis' tour of the US in 1996. What are we to make of the lyrics for "Is That A Fact?": "Alright, I'm going home/ don't want to bear your voice no more/ what's that you say?/You never liked me anyway?/ Is that a fact?/well I don't care./What you need is a real good hiding./Coz with you I've been siding all my life/I know you're my brother/but only because you came from my mother./ Time and time again I've seen what you're really like."

Leave those brainy kids alone

PHILIP HENSHER

What to do with very clever children? Nothing. Intelligence doesn't die through neglect

THE BIG, bad idea of the week emanated, as so often, from the House of Commons. But, for a change, it wasn't the regular inmates, but a visitor giving evidence to the Education Select Committee's inquiry into the education of highly-able children. Mr Ian McNiff, chairman of the pressure group, Children of High Intelligence, and a headmaster, was suggesting that tests should be introduced to identify very able children from the age of four or five. The Government is bringing basic tests into infant schools from September. The tasks required of children starting school will be to recognize numbers from one to 10, write their own names, recognise letters by shape and sound, and concentrate without supervision.

Mr McNiff was suggesting to the committee that additional tests were needed to identify high potential; to show if a child can read a book, for instance. "I don't think we know how able children are. I have had children come into school with a reading age of 14. I once had a girl who had read *Little Women* at the age of four."

At this point, alarm bells ought to start ringing. The implication of what Mr McNiff was saying was: Something Must Be Done. It is a familiar cry from campaigners, journalists and pressure groups, who have identified a situation which public institutions don't seem to be very interested in. It is difficult for such people to understand that sometimes, Nothing Must Be Done, is a more sensible slogan, although admittedly it isn't much of a rallying call. There is a bright, four-year-old girl reading *Little Women* in Hampshire, and the Government doesn't seem to know about it. So Something Must Be Done.

What, however, is to be done with a child so conspicuously coping for herself, is not altogether clear. The problem with all these pressure groups for the education of gifted children is that they are dominated by the opinions of failures; by parents convinced that their children have not lived up to their early potential because they were not "stretched" enough; by people who could do long division in their heads at six and are stacking shelves at 18. They are sinister enough, but they are nowhere near as dislikeable as the sort of people who are only interested in precocity. I don't really see why a four-year-old girl who can read *Little Women* is more interesting or remarkable than the intelligence which wrote *Little Women* in the first place.

And that brings us to the point. Able adults were, on the whole, able children. I mean, I was quite a brainy child, the sort of kid who would take out 10 novels from the public library every single week. But I know perfectly well that if Mr McNiff had been in the vicinity, I wouldn't have been allowed to sit quietly in a corner; I would have been blown up, stretched, and never been allowed a moment's peace.

No one can seriously suppose that there are huge reserves of unfulfilled potential in this country. Instead of concentrating on able children who come to nothing, the Select Committee would do very well to consider the vast mass of intelligent and successful people who pass through a very ordinary series of schools, stretch themselves, and become remarkable not through intensive coaching and cramming, but by the combination of a good public library and an education of benign neglect.

It might even be the case that the originality and awkward habits-of-thinking of highly able adults develops when they are bored at school; in the long hours of staring out of windows, the afternoon's easy task long ago accomplished. Every intelligent person remembers that sense of irritation, without always realising that boredom and irritation can be as stimulating as the *Children's Britannica*. The struggle against mediocrity is so important. I can't help thinking that Mr McNiff would do better to found a National Association For The Suppression of Gifted Children.

What is to be done with very intelligent children? Well, nothing. Because intelligence is not some kind of tender plant which will die through neglect; it will find its own ways. It is much more likely to founder if it is pushed in the wrong directions, or pushed too hard at the wrong times. It is a difficult thing for teachers to accept, but a very original and sharp mind will not benefit from being directed by more conventional minds.

Education, in the end, is a solitary business; Mr McNiff's juvenile reader of *Little Women* is teaching herself, and, with luck, will go on teaching herself all her life. She has found her way to a library; from that point, the only thing which will stop her is some boring adult, following her and annoying her by trying to guide her, mould her, and teach her.

My plea to Mr Straw: listen to Chile's damaged people

ARIEL DORFMAN

Yesterday he told my wife about the worst event of his life – being tortured by Pinochet's police

THIS IS the story of a Chilean handyman I will call Rolando – he would not want his real name known – and how he reacted to the news that the Law Lords were denying General Pinochet's immunity and allowing his extradition to Spain to proceed.

Maestro Rolando has been doing odd jobs for us in Chile, on and off, for the last 10 years: carpentry, painting, plumbing, a bit of everything, tons of ingenuity, a great sense of humour.

My wife tells me over the phone from Santiago that yesterday Rolando sat down to lunch and, for the first time since they've met, he spoke to her about the most traumatic experience of his life: a few years after the coup, he said in a matter-of-fact voice, he had been arrested and tortured by General Pinochet's police. Rolando worked back then as a porter in a school and his tormentors wanted him to implicate his colleagues, finger any teachers who might be engaged in subversive activities. It had been a brief detention. Two, three days, and then they'd let him go. He'd lost his job, suffered bodily pain for a few months, and psychological damage for who knows how long. And had kept silent. Till now.

Now he was able, suddenly, to speak about what had happened to him. For almost 20 years, like millions of other Chileans, he had shut himself inside the closet of his secret emotions, had only told the tale to his own inner shadow. Strangely enough, it was not Pinochet's detention a month ago that had freed his voice, but the decision by Britain's highest court to confirm that detention.

Our handyman felt protected by the glow of that decision by the Law Lords: it was, he said, as if an enormous burden had been taken from his body, as if he were finally free to say what he felt, able at last to let his hidden words flow into the vast public space of Chile. Because Maestro Rolando was now free in his own country, and the man responsible for ravaging that country was under arrest in another land.

Let me add that Maestro Rolando was also happy for another reason: he had bet the local owner of a *botilleria* that Pinochet would lose and was now getting ready to claim two bottles, one of good wine and another of pisco, our wonderful Chilean brandy. They would be drunk in celebration that very night. Nor was he alone. In *poblaciones* all over Chile, people poured spontaneously into the streets, beating drums, chanting, dancing – the sort of collective joy that my country has not witnessed since democracy returned eight years ago.

Maestro Rolando's story is all too typical of the damaged, bruised people of Chile, and typical as well of how the ruling of the Law Lords has given them some sort of relief, vindication, a sense that the unfair balance of the cosmos has been adjusted, that once in a while a wave of justice does, to paraphrase Seamus Heaney, reach our shore.

But this story of a man who finds his voice after so many decades of silence and shame is important for another reason. It may be something that Jack Straw might ponder as he reaches a decision as to General Pinochet's ultimate fate.

Before the Home Secretary decides whether to expel the former dictator or to allow his extradition to proceed, he should not only weigh the pleas for compassion on the part of Mrs Pinochet and the General's right-wing supporters who, of course, never showed compassion for the men and women whose lives were ruined by 17 years of human rights abuses. He should not only take into consideration the reasons of State that the democratically elected Chilean government will bring to him, arguing that Pinochet's contained detention destabilises the Chilean transition. What he should do, above all, is to consult the victims.

And as he cannot, of course, speak directly to Maestro Rolando and the millions of other Rolandos who have been most hurt by Pinochet, I have a suggestion: consult the most damaged of the General's victims. I am talking about the relatives of the *desaparecidos*, the missing men and women of Chile who were kidnapped and murdered by Pinochet's secret police. The relatives who still do not have, decades after their loved ones were taken from them, a body to bury, a grave where flowers can be left, ashes to fix and make real the death.

Of all the cruel acts of Pinochet, the disappearance of his adversaries has undoubtedly been the most pitiless and fierce. Having had the power to alleviate their suffering, he has adamantly refused to reveal or make his subordinates reveal where those bodies lie and what happened to them. He has not allowed the mothers to mourn their dead children, the surviving children to mourn their murdered fathers, the widows to mourn the men they married. Instead, Pinochet has incessantly mocked them.

General Pinochet at his farewell ceremony last month

By doing so, he turned them into the symbol of all that is wrong with Chile, all that the transition to democracy has been unable to accomplish. The relatives of the *desaparecidos* – to put it simply – embody our loss, the loss of a whole country. They are truly, deeply representative of every afflicted person in the land.

They are the conscience of Chile. The memory of a past that will not be erased, has not been erased, by years of persecution.

Their suffering and dignity has conferred upon them a moral authority that must be taken into account before any decision is made as to General Pinochet's fate.

Think of how extraordinary it would be for our former dictator's future to be in the hands of his quintessential victims. Think of General Pinochet, aware of this, extending an invitation for those relatives to come to England, paying their way, in fact, so he could meet them for the first time in his life, in their lives. Think of the General trying to convince them of his regret, his sorrow, his need to make amends. Think of that man listening to them, one by one, bearing each one of their stories, watching each one of their faces. Think of the General declaring publicly that he will spend the rest of his life helping them to find the bodies of their missing loved ones. Think of the General throwing himself on their mercy.

Their mercy.

What they will then say to Jack Straw is up to them. It will depend on what their most intimate dead ask them to do.

Then, and only then, should the Home Secretary make his decision. Then and only then will true justice be done.

Ariel Dorfman's latest book is 'Heading South, Looking North', a memoir about surviving Pinochet

Why does no one want to teach?

PODIUM

ALAN SMITHERS

From a speech by the professor of education at Liverpool University to a conference on teaching in London

"THERE ARE about 370,000 full-time teachers in state schools, almost equally divided between nursery/primary and secondary. Over 30,000 leave each year. Currently, about a third of the departures are retirements or due to ill-health, another third are managed exits arising from changes in the system, and the final third are teachers leaving the profession, often to take other employment.

The teaching crisis of the 1980s was caused in part by cutting back the training system too far. There was belated recognition that the post-war baby boom had not continued. The policy of expanding the teacher training colleges was thrown into reverse. It was decided that the postgraduate courses would also have to bear their share of the cuts.

By 1983 the size of the training system had been cut to only 15,000 places. Since that date there has been an attempt to plan the training capacity by setting targets.

There has been no difficulty in meeting the primary school targets, and both undergraduate and postgraduate courses have been oversubscribed. But at the secondary level it is a different story. Apart from the depths of the economic recession in the early 1990s it has not been possible to meet the overall target. Currently, apart from history, PE and RE, none of the subject targets is being met.

Teaching for many is a second choice profession. Some graduates will go into it if nothing better comes along. When it does, an appreciable number leave. This picture of teaching as a less preferred option is reinforced by the qualifications of graduates on PGCE courses. In every case, including history, the proportion with good degrees is below that for the subject. In maths and information technology two-thirds do not have good degrees. The average A-level points score of entrants to undergraduate education courses is below that of every other subject area.

Not only does teaching seem relatively unattractive, but it is looking for an enormous number of graduates each year.

Although the grave situation in maths and modern languages is widely acknowledged, the seriousness of the problem in the sciences is, to some extent, hidden.

Because the subject in the national curriculum is "science" the target for teacher training is also framed in these terms. But there are not only more biologists to fill those places but biology graduates are also more inclined to become teachers. Physics taught by well qualified physicists is in grave danger of disappearing from our schools. We seem to be in the grip of a negative feedback loop where too few teachers leads to too few young people being attracted to the subject so that the pool from which teachers can be recruited is itself too small.

It is for the policy makers to decide what to do. If it would be helpful to them I can, however, pull out some of the main issues that have occurred to me as I have worked through the numbers:

The first is that teaching now has to compete on an open market for graduates, whereas in the past there have been dedicated entry routes. Teaching has to become sufficiently attractive to at least hold its own against other employers who are looking to recruit graduates.

In general, the rewards of work can be divided into two categories: extrinsic and intrinsic. An appropriate structure for teaching will therefore mean getting the extrinsic rewards like salary, security and status right, but also paying attention to the intrinsic satisfactions – the nature of the job itself. Independent schools, by and large, have less difficulty in recruiting staff than state schools and, since salaries are often not that much higher, this must mean that the conditions of service are more appealing. It would be interesting to find out just why.

A possible way of addressing the shortage subjects would be through trying to increase the number of places in the basic disciplines at university. An unfortunate consequence of the rapid expansion of higher education is that it has spread out in a wide variety of directions, but the number of places in the national curriculum subjects, the fundamental ways of making sense of the world, have in many cases hardly increased at all. There perhaps ought to be a deliberate attempt to increase the size of the pools from which maths, physical science and modern language teachers can be recruited.

Information about recruitment to teacher training has improved, but, in addition, there should be regular monitoring of samples of schools to ascertain how they view the quality of applicants."

Perilously close to the edge

PAUL KENNEDY

Despite Wall Street's euphoria, some of us doubt if we shall escape jolts to our social life

Panic among traders on the floor of the Sao Paulo stock exchange as the Brazilian market crashes this summer

IN THE midst of this summer, the world may have been closer to a catastrophic economic collapse and subsequent political turbulences than at any time since the end of World War Two. If you can get them to speak candidly, what most statesmen and central bankers and strategists will admit that they always fear is having to deal with two or even more crises at the same time. Earlier this year, they were dealing with at least five. In retrospect, August and September were very scary months indeed.

Just consider the sheer geographical spread of the crises of the summer of 1998: Russia defaulted on its debt payments; Japan foundered on the rocks of low consumer confidence; Indonesia was tearings itself apart and Brazil was in trouble again with its bankers, while the Long-Term Management Fund collapsed. Here was a true latter-day equivalent of the notorious South Sea Bubble.

Today the mood is entirely different again. The recovery of market confidence that has seen shares return to their pre-crisis heights has been caused by a number of events, rather than by one single decision, aided by moves by the Tokyo government, the IMF and the US Federal reserve. Above all, perhaps, there has been the resilience and self-confidence of individual American investors, a great many of whom have never experienced a great drop in share values and seemed determined to drive prices back up to previous heights. By this week, they have done just that, with the *Wall Street Journal* excitedly reporting that "With Dazzling Speed, Market Roars Back To Another New High". Professional advisoirs and economists, who had cautioned that troubles may still lie ahead, have been confounded and humiliated.

Before we dismiss the thinking of those Bears, however, as too out-of-date and join the stampede of investors pressing to see the Dow at 10,000, 15,000 or even 30,000, let us ask a few awkward questions. The first concerns the extent – actually, the limitations – of the information that American bullish investors, and their equivalents abroad, take into account. This can be no better expressed than by the triumphal statement of Abby Cohen, the chief investment strategist at Goldman, Sachs & Co, who earlier this week stated that what is needed is "to ignore the short-term signals, some of them very loud signals, and focus on company trends". The ominous sound of collapsing societies and polities is thus to be regarded as a "short-term signal", as opposed to the longer-term and more reassuring assessment of stock valuation favoured by the Bulls.

Yet one wonders whether Alan Greenspan himself or the CEOs of really smart multi-nationals like BP and Coca-Cola are sharing this exuberance and cracking open the champagne bottles? This writer suspects not. For the basic fact is that the global political system is distinctly tattered and its social fabric in so many parts of the world is wearing thin. These "short-term signals" may yet come back to haunt us.

Consider just a few reasons why the now scorned bears might have a case. Russia's economy is still in a critical condition and is forecast to shrink by another nine per cent next year. (Question: how far can an economy contract until, like the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*, it disappears altogether, and what does that mean in the real world of 150 million people?) Russia's leader is clearly close to death, an event that will cause the Tokyo, Frankfurt and other European bourses to tremble as they struggle to understand how the succession problem plays out.

Indonesia's riots suggest the implosion of the fourth most populous country in the world. And in Japan the suspicious citizens appear to have little enthusiasm for going on a spending spree. So, at least three of the five problems that worried policy-makers in September are still unresolved, and two of them (Russia, Indonesia) may be getting worse. Nor have the other issues of earlier this year – arms proliferation, Saddam Hussein's challenge to UN supervisions and President Clinton's battle with his Republican foes – gone away.

The second consideration is the problem of political leadership in this complex, divided planet of ours. The difficulties of the current American President may be *sui generis*, but they clearly worry all foreign-policy experts, who recall that it was lack of real leadership that plagued the West in the Thirities and the blessed abundance of US leadership that saved things in the late Forties.

Yeltsin's steady collapse may also be something special to Russian conditions, but it does not make for a stable world order. Succession problems also loom in key states such as Jordan, Morocco, Syria and South Africa, and many analysts have long been concerned about the survivability of the present Egyptian and Saudi Arabian polities. Japan exhibits a total lack of leadership, as reflected in the incredibly low public-opinion ratings of the current government. European politicians (with the partial exception of Tony Blair) appear parochial, self-effacing figures; Germany's best-selling magazine *Der Spiegel* printed on its front-cover last week "Where is Schroeder?" in protest at this lack of decisiveness and vision.

Finally, and most importantly, one needs to take into account the groans and creaks of a deeply troubled developing world, noises that suggest to ecologists, demographers, human-rights experts and plain old military strategists alike that all is not well, and that existing political structures in many regions may not be able to bear the strains of too-rapid modernisation.

Separatist movements across the globe, in Mexico, India, the Balkans, are trying to escape into their own fiefdoms. The youth unemployment rate in every city along the North African littoral is around 50 per cent or more. Most of the nations that supply our oil and gas supplies are, literally, social and political powder kegs. And it is towards those countries that a vast flow of armaments, both sophisticated and crude, is pouring.

Then there is the awful reality of "North" and "South" that simply will not go away. During the Fifties and Sixties, the income "gap" between the world's richest and poorest countries was closed, although obviously by an insufficient amount; but more recently, the gap has opened up again, horribly, ominously.

Do we really want to go into the 21st century with the average North American and European enjoying 200 times the income of the inhabitants of Rwanda and Haiti? Do we think that makes for a nice, stable world?

In October 1930, a year after the Wall Street Crash but before the Manchurian crisis and the Nazi seizure of power, the *Economist* surveyed global problems and concluded: "The supreme difficulty of our generation... is that our achievements on the economic plane of life have outstripped our progress on the political plane to such an extent that our economics and our politics are perpetually falling out of gear with one another. One the economic plane, the world has been organized into a single, all-embracing unit of activity. On the political plane, it has not only remained partitioned into 60 or 70 sovereign national states, but the national units have been growing smaller and more numerous and the national consciousnesses more acute. The tension between these two antithetical tendencies has been producing a series of jolts and smashes in the social life of humanity... "

History never repeats itself exactly, and we always learn something from the past. But there are some of us who find troubling echoes of the *Economist*'s worries in today's world and doubt that, despite Wall Street's recent euphoria, we shall escape some further jolts and smashes in the social life of humanity in the years to come. We are still dangerously close to the brink.

The author is director of international security studies at Yale University

RIGHT OF REPLY

RICHARD BRIERS

The comedy actor and star of 'The Good Life' replies to attacks on the situation comedy

I WAS amused to read that Peter Salmon, the controller of BBC1, thinks that the traditional sit com is a "dreary Fifties' scenario", and that he has decided to "take out a contract on suburban sofas and knitted pullovers".

Speaking for myself, I have delivered some of my best lines in just such knitwear sitting on those very suburban soft furnishings! I think that Mr Salmon has missed the point about what makes for a funny sit com.

A good sit com does not rely simply on its format, or what an actor happens to be wearing: it depends on its writing and I may modestly add, the acting too. You only have to look the audiences for repeats of shows like *The Good Life*, written by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, or *The Likely Lads*, (Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais), or *Dad's Army* (David Croft and Jimmy Perry), to appreciate the enduring strengths of the old formats. It is hard to think of something less contemporary than, say, the wartime Home Guard. Here we had superb teams with wit and intelligence who created timeless characters, and who explored pomposity, foolishness, jealousy and a score of other themes. And what could be more traditional or funnier than *One Foot in the Grave*?

Of course, there have been some terrible comedies put out in the name of traditional sit com. But we have also had to witness some new types that are no funnier. Even *Men Behaving Badly*, for example, takes a little too antagonistic an attitude to the viewer.

Comedy is lot harder to write than drama or soaps. If Mr Salmon doesn't want to find himself in ever decreasing circles, he should have a long hard think about how he proposes to encourage good writers, and forget about jumpers and furniture.

That was the century that was

FRIDAY BOOK

MODERN TIMES, MODERN PLACES
BY PETER CONRAD, THAMES & HUDSON, £24.95

BY THE time one has read all 736 pages of Peter Conrad's account of life and art in the 20th century, it is difficult to avoid a sense of fin-de-siècle. Like the 20th century, this book is a heroic endeavour and, like the 20th century, one is quite relieved to have got to the end of it.

Conrad's range of reference is hugely impressive. Unusually, he is equipped to write about music and opera as elegantly as he writes about painting, architecture, film and fiction. There is not a bad sentence in the book, and his 166 illustrations are precisely chosen.

Conrad describes what he has written as "not quite a cultural history" – the only uncertainty in a performance of complete assurance. It is not a work of criticism, for critical judgements are rare, though by implication the works chosen are worthy of inclusion. It is not a history, for although broadly chronological, Conrad assumes a familiarity with the century's events. But if it is not "quite" a cultural history, it is more than an attempt "to understand what it has meant to be alive in the 20th century".

Essentially, this is a narrative of the shifting relations between two defining terms, "modernity" and "modernism". Conrad is not always precise in his use of them, but modernity stands for the conditions and events of the century; while modernism stands for the cultural responses to modernity in works of art.

In this book, these are almost exclusively works of high art, because they "stay around to be investigated". The choice betrays Conrad's own taste, and explains why the emphasis is on the first half of the century, when the modernist movement was at its most creative. Conrad does not like the category "postmodern", which arguably is our present condition.

Paradoxically, 20th-century modernity represented a leap forward and back. It was a leap forward in that it was a decision to dispense with the past. Conrad's hero – or anti-hero – is Albert Einstein who, in 1905, abolished the linear progress of the 19th century with his Theory of Relativity, substituting the simultaneity of time and space – a simultaneity that threatened to eliminate both. By the end of the century, Conrad writes, place, if not space, has disappeared.

This radical reshaping of the world was also a leap back into the Dark Ages. Nietzsche and Freud revealed the true primitivism beneath our assumed enlightenment. While culture struggled throughout the new century to replace nature, man's barbarism put technology to ever more brutal uses.

The conflict of 1914-18 was only the beginning of a war that has lasted ever since. If Charlie Chaplin is "the representative modern man", his double, Hitler, must be taken seriously as potentially the representative modern artist. Having escaped the supervision of God (pronounced dead by Nietzsche), Hitler's will to power included the planning of his own destruction. The horrors of the Holocaust were followed by the atrocity of the atomic bomb (fathered by Einstein), to which Conrad devotes some of his most evocative pages.

Charlie Chaplin, 'the representative modern man' *MSI*

Conrad suffers from the pessimism that afflicted founders of literary modernism such as TS Eliot, and his account is really a commentary on that tradition. Though wide-ranging, his citations are almost entirely from the high-modernist canon, and his view is Eurocentric. America and Japan are admitted to this canon as locations of the last "citadels of modern society", a list that begins with Vienna, Moscow, Paris and Berlin. London is not on the itinerary, and British writers hardly figure. For that matter, Conrad loves opera but does not aeem very interested in theatre or poetry.

This also reads as a very masculine century. Apart from Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, Leni Riefenstahl and the photographer Margaret Bourke-White, women are largely confined, along with blacks and homosexuals, to a chapter on "Others". Even an index as impressive as his (there are no references or bibliography) is an easy target for accusations of omission, but discussion of a writer such as Salman Rushdie – whose work comes not from inclusion or exclusion, but the more common late-20th-century experience of marginality – would have done justice to a wider world. What "it has meant to be alive in the 20th century" turns out to be what it has been like for a highly educated white male.

In the end, in Tokyo, postmodernism asserts its inescapable condition. In a world that only continues in the present by quoting from the past, an entropic pessimism sets in. Modernism has tried to get rid of the past, and used up the future in the process. The irony – that most modernist of devices – of Conrad's achievement is that he has created a vast work of synthesis while the subject of this synthesis – the 20th century – has ended in fragmentation and quotation. Conrad faces this plight with a tragic optimism. Eliot said it first in 1922: "These fragments I have shored against my ruin."

ROBERT HEWISON

FRIDAY POEM

THE GARDEN OF LOVE
BY WILLIAM BLAKE

I went to the Garden of Love,
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the midst,
Where I used to play on the green.

And the gates of this Chepel were shut,
And "Thou shalt not" writ over the door;
So I turn'd to the Garden of Love
That so many sweet flowers bore;

And I saw it was filled with graves,
And tomb-stones where flowers should be;
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
And binding with brairs my joys & desires.

This poem comes from 'Sounds Good: 101 poems to be heard', edited by Christopher Reid (Faber, £7.99)

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 27 November 1998

Professor Nicholas Kurti

Kurti in 1960 at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, during a live broadcast of *Tomorrow's World*, n which he performed a millionth-of-a-degree cooling experiment

NICHOLAS KURTI was the final link between physics at Oxford University and the remarkable group of scientists who emerged from the shadow of the holocaust in the 1930s.

Kurti and others in Germany and Eastern Europe were forced to recognise that their scientific genius would necessarily find its expression in countries other than those under Nazi hegemony, and their emigration to England, Canada and the United States is part of the history of science in the 20th century.

Kurti lived in Oxford for upwards of 65 years, yet he remained a quintessential Mid-European and thereby epitomised a cultural as well as a scientific link with the early years. He so easily put one in mind of that remarkable city Budapest, which at the turn of this century produced far more than its fair share of the world's great physicists. Nicholas Kurti was born there in 1908, and went to the same school, the Minta-Gymnasium, as people like Edward Teller, Johnny von Neumann, Eugene Wigner and others. Perhaps some of their magic rubbed off on all those around them, for though Kurti was not in their league as a theoretical physicist, his lengthy career at Oxford was to confirm his reputation as one of the leading experimental physicists of his era.

Typical of his early years in Budapest was his desire to pursue seriously his study of the pianoforte. That in itself was perhaps not unusual, but when he sought suitable instruction and advice, one of his relatives took him along to a friend who was a piano teacher, one Bela Bartók. Kurti also recalled a young man several years his junior, who did enter the Conservatorium with a view to making a career in music: his name was Georg Solti.

Kurti moved to Paris for his undergraduate studies and then to Berlin to begin graduate work under Professor Francis Simon. This was in 1929. Barely four years later, the two of them packed their bags and headed for Oxford, where some 20 years later, Simon was to succeed Lord Cherwell as Head of Physics.

Even in these early years, when Kurti began his work on magnetic cooling, his energy and his relentlessly logical pursuit of a principle or an idea were apparent. For example, their work required as large a magnetic field as possible, but funds were limited as were the electrical sources to power an electromagnet. Kurti realised that one limit was the electrical resistance of the magnet windings. "Never mind," he said, "we will cool this magnet in liquid hydrogen, in order to reduce the resistance".

To quote from his memoirs:

I built the solenoid and with great expectations late one evening I pressed the switch which sent a current of 40 amperes through the coil. The result was spectacular – a deafening explosion, the apparatus disappeared, all windows were blown in or out, a wall caved in, and thus ended my pioneering experiment on liquid hydrogen cooled coils!

Things could only improve after that, which they certainly did. His experiments on the low temperature heat capacity of gadolinium sulphate were remarkable for their time. For physicists in that era, the new kid on the block was quantum mechanics. For people like Kurti the challenge was to bring the theory and methodology of thermodynamics to bear on the problem of obtaining quantum mechanical information about a system, from a purely macroscopic measurement such as heat capacity. What, after all, could be simpler than putting some heat into a body, and measuring the resulting temperature rise?

It took a great deal of experimental skill and physical insight to turn this into a serious measurement of quantum effects. This Kurti did, with gadolinium sulphate, where he was able to determine energy splittings a million times smaller than those observed, say, in the optical spectrum of the hydrogen atom. For all his great achievements later on, it was always clear that this early result gave him as much satisfaction as anything.

'The result was spectacular – a deafening explosion, the apparatus disappeared, all windows blown in or out – and thus ended my pioneering experiment on liquid hydrogen cooled coils'

His Oxford career was interrupted to some extent by two events; first, the building of the modern Clarendon Laboratory, immediately adjacent to the University Parks, and second, the outbreak of the Second World War. Physics research at Oxford became but one aspect of the total war effort, and Nicholas Kurti made important contributions toward the problem of separating the isotopes of uranium, an essential step toward the eventual construction of the atom bomb.

Once things returned to normal, though, there were exciting times ahead. Kurti had turned his attention to the goal of reaching down the temperature scale into the millionths-of-a-degree-above-Absolute-Zero regime. The experiments were difficult, and certainly took all day to prepare, even when everything worked properly. Maximum excitement usually occurred around 2 to 3 am, which meant that the Clarendon had some features in common with the then well-known Windmill Theatre.

By the time Kurti was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (in 1956) his nuclear cooling experiments had attracted world-wide attention. Never more attention, however, than in 1960, when he agreed to perform a millionth-of-a-degree cooling experiment live on national television, on *Tomorrow's World*. Kurti, instinctively the showman, was equal to it all, and the event was a great success.

His career thereafter is a litany of Prize lectures, Prize medals, visiting professorships and the like, all over the world. He was often amused – indeed, bemused – by the constant string of invitations he received to chair this, or join a panel for that, when on each occasion he would reply "But I don't know anything about that!" Effective he clearly was, if only as an irritant (his phrase) on governing bodies oozing complacency, but he liked to describe himself in this context by using a phrase from Isaiah Berlin, as a genuine charlatan!

Kurti had an instinctive distrust of bureaucrats and bureaucracy, of obfuscation and buck-passing. This led to fame of a different kind, when in 1967 he came into direct confrontation with British Rail. Returning to Oxford by train late one night, he found that he and several other motorists were trapped in the station car park. The automatic coin-operated barrier was jammed in the down position. The *Daily Express* best described what happened next, in their headline the following day: "CRACK! Man of Science bursts barrier!"

In many ways this was the perfect silly season story, and it ran for months. Kurti was charged with causing wilful damage to British Rail property, and was fined £11.10s.6d. On appeal, he was granted an absolute discharge and he certainly had the last laugh. As the *Oxford Mail* put it: "It is enough to say that British Rail's action (or rather lack of it) over Dr Kurti's letter will not come as a surprise to hardened rail users in this city."

As bon vivant and connoisseur of fine food and wine, Kurti had a lifelong love not just of food but of the art of cooking. Once he had formally retired in the mid-Seventies he pursued this interest with vigour, and again quickly found himself on television, bringing his physics knowledge to bear in the kitchen. His friendship with Raymond Blanc, chef supreme at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, resulted in collaboration over the television series Raymond's *Blanc Mange* in 1995.

On the international scene, he was for some years co-organiser of the International Workshop on Molecular and Physical Gastronomy, held annually at Erice, Sicily. All this activity betokened a really serious interest in the magical processes associated with food preparation. He wrote of his personal belief that "the discovery of a new dish could be just as rewarding intellectually and just as beneficial to mankind as the discovery of a new inter-atomic force, or of a new low temperature phenomenon, or a new elementary particle, or of a new star".

To know Nicholas Kurti on a daily basis – as many did, for he continued to come to the Clarendon for coffee until just a few weeks before his death – was a very special experience. An endless source of stories, he loved a good joke, was always interested in what his friends were doing, and although at times he could be irritating beyond measure, there was always his humour and magnanimity to restore the balance.

Remarkably fit for someone his age, he nevertheless succumbed to the strain of two replacement hip operations in quick succession, and in the end it was just too much to bear.

M. J. M. LEASK

Nicholas Kurti, physicist: born Budapest 14 May 1908; Researcher, Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford 1933-40; UK Atomic Bomb Project 1940-45; University Demonstrator in Physics, Oxford University 1945-60, Reader in Physics 1960-67, Professor of Physics 1967-75 (Emeritus); Senior Research Fellow, Brasenose College, Oxford 1947-67, Professorial Fellow 1967-75 (Emeritus); FRS 1956; Vice-President, Royal Society 1965-67; CBE 1973; married 1946 Giana Shipley (two daughters); died Oxford 24 November 1998.

Arnold M. Auerbach

LIKE ITS English counterpart, the Broadway revue is all but extinct. Unfortunately, Arnold M. Auerbach, whose flair for gusty satire made him meat for that form of entertainment, came to revue in its last years.

Auerbach's was hardly a rags-to-riches story; his father was a prominent Manhattan doctor. After attending an exclusive private school, Arnold studied at Columbia University, where he co-edited the campus magazine *Jester* and wrote humorous articles for it. Another contributor was his classmate, the future novelist Herman Wouk. Together they wrote two variety shows and soon decided to become professional writers.

After graduation, Auerbach wrote two plays, and, although neither was a success, he was undaunted. "My record may have been puny", he later wrote, "but my ambitions were full blown: to bowl over Broadway as a wit and satirist; to become, eventually, a Molière; plus, perhaps, a dash of George Bernard Shaw".

To subsidise his theatrical work, Auerbach considered writing radio comedy. Luckily his father had a patient whose second cousin was the wife of the man known as "the Tsar of the Gags". David Freedman, the highest paid and most prolific comedy writer of 1930s broadcasting, was then providing scripts for six weekly series, with the help of voluminous, cross-indexed joke files.

Freedman hired Auerbach to ferret out humour from magazines, newspapers and books, thereby swelling the files, which Auerbach described as "the Augean stables of humour". One day he was handed a copy of *Jester*, the college magazine for which he had written. "It struck me," he wrote, "that I might be the first grave-robber to rob his own grave". Eventually he decided to forsake the Freedman quip factory and team up with Herman Wouk to turn out more creative comedy material.

'My ambitions were to bowl over Broadway, to become a Molière, plus a dash of George Bernard Shaw'

They wrote a sample sketch and approached Fred Allen, one of the top radio writer-comedians of the day, described by Auerbach as "keen-witted, literate and incisive". Allen hired them, and they remained with him for five years. With the coming of the Second World War, Wouk entered the Navy and Auerbach the Army.

Assigned to the Army's Special Services Division, Auerbach wrote shows for the troops, including a complete revue called *About Face*. Also creating soldier shows were the composer Harold Rome and the former Hollywood leading man Melvyn Douglas, who wrote in his autobiography: "The war was winding down, and Harold and Arnold had a notion that a musical based on the wartime experiences of returning servicemen might do well on Broadway."

After the war, Rome wrote the songs and Auerbach and Arnold B. Horwitt the sketches for the revue *Call Me Mister* (1946), which Douglas co-produced with Rome's lawyer Herman Levin, later the producer of My Fair Lady. The cast of *Call Me Mister* consisted of such ex-GIs as Jules Munshin and such ex-USO troop entertainers as Betty Garrett, and the show ran for 734 performances – an all-time record for a large-scale Broadway revue. The 1951 film version – with storyline added - starred Betty Grable and Dan Dailey.

The revue *Inside USA* (1948) included an Auerbach sketch (based on a *New Yorker* piece by George S. Kaufman), in which Jack Haley instructed fledgling waiters in the art of avoiding the diner's eye, bringing him the wrong dish and interrupting him just as he's about to finish telling his beautiful dinner companion a joke.

Auerbach's most uproarious contribution was the sketch satirising the then recent Chopin biopic *A Song to Remember*. Beatrice Lillie memorably played Madame Lapis de Lazuli, the most fascinating woman in Vienna ("Oh, they are so tiresome, these young students! Last night at the Kaizenhof, they were at my table till six o'clock, drinking beer from my slipper, I came home foaming at the feet.") By merely exposing a shoulder or an ankle, Madame de Lazuli inspired musical masterpieces from – in quick succession – Chopin, Lizst and Tchaikovsky.

A second Levin-Rome-Auerbach revue *Bless You All* (1950) again started Jules Munshin. John Chapman wrote, in the *New York Daily News*, "In an elaborate sketch, Mr Munshin is running for the presidency in 1960 and is conducting his campaign entirely by television – and here the writer, Mr Auerbach, is at his funniest as he flails heartily away at TV revues and nationalist politics." Alas, it wasn't long before American political life was imitating Auerbach's art.

The Broadway revue was soon decimated by television, a medium for which Auerbach was also well-suited; he wrote programmes for Milton Berle, Frank Sinatra and Phil Silvers. In 1955 he joined the writing staff of the new series *You'll Never Get Rich*, which introduced the world to Master Sergeant Ernest T. Bilko of Fort Baxter, Roseville, Kansas. The scripts for that first series were so superbly crafted that Auerbach and his fellow writers shared an Emmy award.

Auerbach wrote many pieces for the Sunday Arts and Leisure section of the *New York Times*, humorous verse and prose for various magazines, as well as *Funny Men Don't Laugh* (1965), a memoir of his early days with David Freedman and Fred Allen.

DICK VOSBURGH

Arnold M. Auerbach, writer: born New York City 23 May 1912; married (one son, one daughter); died New York 19 October 1998.

Jimmie Ireland

Rugby for fun and friendship

AT A time when Scottish rugby is wrestling with the inherent problems that professionalism has brought to the game, the death of Jimmie Ireland, one of Murrayfield's greatest administrators, will be for some a poignant reminder that for most of history Scotland was the prickly, staunch bastion of amateurism.

Ireland was a player of repute, an international referee, a president of the Scottish Rugby Union (RFU) and chairman of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). But like all his predecessors and contemporaries, he was contemptuous of anything which frayed the amateur fabric of the game. If he had still been stalking the corridors of power when the IRFB decided to professionalise the game three years ago, there is no doubt he would have been an implacable opponent.

For Ireland, rugby was a leisure activity, played for fun and friendship. In his day there was no such thing, apart from in newspaper columns, as a Five Nations championship. International matches were nothing more than an extension of club matches, a series of friendly contests which accidentally brought in the fans and as a consequence swelled the SRU's coffers, revenue which kept the whole game alive. To have used any of that cash to pay players would have been unthinkable.

What indeed would Ireland have made of the fact that last Saturday, barely 30,000 attended Scotland's match against the world champions South Africa? As the last surviving member of Scotland's first Grand Slam side of 1925, he played in the Calcutta Cup match when 80,000 attended the opening match at Scotland's brand-new stadium. England were beaten 14-11, which helped them to accumulate a record (at the time) of 17 tries and 77 points from the four matches.

That was Ireland's third cap as Scotland's hooker and he went on to appear another eight times, being on a losing side only twice, both against Ireland. It was heady stuff for Ireland and his team-mates because before 1925, Scottish rugby had not won anything of note in the previous 18 years.

Clearly Ireland was part of an exceptional team. Five of the pack were reported capable of running 100 yards in 11 seconds and in their backs they possessed one of the great wings of that or any generation, Ian Smith. It was easy to understand why Ireland accepted the values and virtues of the time. When he swapped jerseys with his opposite number, Sam Tucker, after the Twickenham match in 1926, he was duly presented with a bill for 12s 6d from the SRU. That 1926 match, won 17-9, was incidentally Scotland's first victory at the home of English rugby.

Ireland was born in Glasgow in 1903 and educated at Garnetbank Primary and Glasgow High School, one of Britain's great rugby academies. His two older brothers played for GHS before him and he was capped at the age of 14 for Scottish Schools.

After retiring as an international player he continued in club rugby, but unlike many international players of his time, he went on to attain stature as a referee, handling Ireland v England and Wales v Ireland (in 1938) and England v Wales, England v Ireland and Ireland v Wales the following season.

By this time he had been singled out as an administrator of promise. He was appointed Glasgow's representative on the SRU in 1936 and the same year became a member of the world's most famous club, the Barbarians. The die was cast.

Jimmie Ireland, trained to be an accountant, and nurtured in the strict code of amateurism of his time, held a variety of high offices, culminating in his presidency of the SRU in 1950. He was chairman of the IRFB in 1949 when Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were admitted as full members for a first time.

In 1996 he opened a block of hospitality suites at Murrayfield, each suite named after a member of the 1925 side in which he had played.

ROBERT COLE

James Cecil Hardin Ireland, rugby player: born Glasgow 10 December 1903; married 1938 Margaret McLean (died 1981); died 25 October 1998.

The Rev Vilmos Vajta

VILMOS VAJTA, an exiled Hungarian Lutheran theologian, was a harsh critic of the compromises the Lutheran Church leadership in his homeland made with the Communist authorities. Bnt, unlike almost all other critics of such collaboration in the Eastern-bloc churches, Vajta stuck firmly to a theological approach, arguing convincingly that the collaboration resulted in a distortion of the church's teaching amounting to heresy by preventing the church from playing a prophetic role in society.

He published a restrained but devastating attack on the "theology of diaconia (service)", the pseudo-theological term the Hungarian Lutheran Church had invented to lend respectability to its collaboration. Vajta summarised this theology as "ideological non-intervention, combined with practical co-operation", based on "one-sided selection" of biblical passages. In practice this had a devastating impact on the church, Vajta believed.

The church was deprived of the opportunity to comment on and criticise abuses in Hungary. "It is permissible to criticise racism in South Africa and North America," Vajta complained, "but when Hungarian troops marched into Czechoslovakia in 1968, not a single word of concern was uttered by the church. Nor are Jews and intellectuals who have been expelled from socialist countries regarded as suitable subjects for the concrete practice of diaconia in our world today." He concluded that the theology had in fact become an ideology, criticism of which was not tolerated.

The broadside, published in a German magazine in 1983, provoked a blistering response from senior Hungarian Lutheran leaders, all of whom had been appointed at the behest of the state. Vajta had particularly criticised pronouncements by Bishop Zoltan Kaldy, then head of the Hungarian Lutheran Church and a vocal supporter of the "theology of diaconia". Kaldy himself remained silent, but five other senior church figures issued a statement condemning Vajta's "slanders".

Instead of tackling Vajta's theological points, they resorted to discrediting "someone who for the last 42 years has lived in the West . . . but who none the less believes that he is qualified to lecture to and censure his former church". Throughout this exchange, Vajta remained unfailingly polite. He later amplified his ideas in a 1987 book.

Vajta grew up after the First World War in newly independent Hungary, studying theology in Sopron from 1936 to 1940, when he was ordained as a Lutheran minister. After service in various congregations, he gained a grant to study in Sweden in 1941. As pastor to the Hungarian embassy in Stockholm he was, like other embassy staff, granted political asylum by the Swedish government when Hungary was annexed by Nazi Germany in the spring of 1944.

'When Hungarian troops marched into Czechoslovakia in 1968, not a single word of concern was uttered by the church'

Vajta studied first in Uppsala and later in Lund, where he received his doctorate in 1953 for his work on Luther'a theology of worship (published in German in 1952 and in English in 1957). He also looked after congregations of Hungarian Lutherans in Sweden.

At the end of 1953 he was named as first director of the Lutheran World Federation's Department of Theology, based in Geneva. From there he organised international conferences, maintained links with Lutheran theological institutions and administered the grants programme for students.

Vajta began a string of publications on the history, constitution and life of the Lutheran churches worldwide. He was one of the initiators of the Luther Research Congress, whose first conference he organised in Denmark in 1956 and whose work he followed closely and moulded for several years, inviting not only Lutheran theologians but other Christians, historians and later even Marxists. He became committed to ecumenical work, attending conferences of the World Council of Churches and the Second Vatican Council.

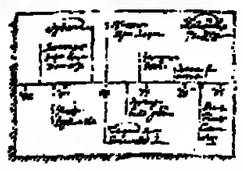
In 1964 he was asked to go to the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg as its first director, where he stayed until his retirement in 1981. There he continued his ecumenical work, playing a key role in Lutheran-Catholic dialogue (which would eventually reach fruition with a joint declaration on justification by faith earlier this year).

Despite the conflict with the church leadership in Hungary, Vajta remained attached to the church, retaining a sense of responsibility and concern. For 30 years from 1957 he served as president of the conference of Hungarian church workers abroad. After the resolution of this conflict, which ended, appropriately enough, in 1990 by his receiving an honorary doctorate in theology from the theological seminary in Budapest. he devoted a considerable effort to publishing his theological work in Hungary.

Vajta was also committed to his adopted country of Sweden, taking Swedish citizenship in 1949 and becoming a pastor of the Swedish church, as well as being married to a Swede.

FELIX CORLEY

Vilmos Vajta, theologian; born Kecskemet, Hungary 15 June 1918; ordained 1940; Director, Lutheran World Federation Department of Theology, Geneva 1953-64; Director, Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg 1964-81; married (one son, two daughters); died Alingsas, Sweden 21 October 1998.



HISTORICAL NOTES

PAUL ISRAEL

Edison's new approach to invention

AT THE end of his life the American inventor Thomas Edison seemed a figure from a bygone era, an untutored genius whose cut-and-try method of invention had given way to organised scientific research in industrial laboratories.

This view of the inventor was certainly evident in the appraisals of his work offered by some of the country's leading directors of industrial research in an issue of *Science* that appeared shortly after his death in 1931. In fact, Edison himself was a central figure in the transition from invention into industrial research.

Edison's style of invention grew out of a tradition of shop invention that is much more sophisticated than the simple myth of the heroic lone inventor. Shop invention was a co-operative enterprise in which skilled operatives, superintendents, machinists, and manufacturers drew on practical experience to design, build, and refine new technology.

Edison learned about shop invention while working as a telegraph operator during the mid-1860s. He found that the telegraph operating rooms and machine shops provided informal technical schools and experimental laboratories.

The importance of the machine shop to inventive work became evident to Edison as a young telegraph inventor when he was forced to delay tests of an invention because of a wait for delayed instruments. In his subsequent contracts for experimental work Edison made sure to include provisions for machine shop and other experimental facilities. His first significant telegraph contracts enabled him to establish manufacturing shops.

In his shops Edison began to surround himself with a core group of machinists and experimental assistants. In addition he began to undertake a programme of research in electromagnetism and chemistry that led him to begin reconceptualising the process of invention. Edison's new approach to invention was spurred by his visit to England in the spring of 1873 to demonstrate his high-speed automatic telegraph system.

During these tests he encountered unexpected problems due to underground lines and submarine cables in use in Britain that produced complex electrical conditions. Following his return to America, Edison began to purchase a large amount of electrical and chemical equipment, including some of the more sophisticated electrical testing apparatus he had seen in Britain. By mid-1875, when he gave up manufacturing to devote his full attention to invention, Edison's experimental shop included a well-equipped physical and chemical laboratory. The following year, the shop became merely part of the much larger laboratory he built in Menlo Park, New Jersey. By the time Edison abandoned the Menlo Park laboratory in the early 1880s, he had pioneered a new style of research and development in which work was sub-divided amongst a large staff of experimenters and machinists organised into experimental teams having access to the best library, experimental apparatus, and machine tools available.

Edison was the first to realise that he could make invention a more regular and predictable process. The model he developed influenced not only his contemporaries, but also corporate leaders at firms such as General Electric and AT&T who in the early-20th century would establish a new model of science-based industrial research that supplanted Edison's. Edison never recognised how profoundly industrial research had changed by the end of his career and failed to adapt. As a consequence the man who might have been remembered as the founder of American industrial research became instead a symbol of a mythic American past in which an unschooled empirical genius could astound the world through hard work and persistence.

Paul Israel is the nuthor of 'Edison: a life of adventure' (John Wiley, £19.50)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

FREDERICKS: On 17 November 1998, to Eve (née Vaz) and Simon, a daughter, Annabel Rose, a sister for Alexander.

DEATHS

KURTI: Nicholas CBE FRS, on 24 November 1998, aged 90. Husband of Giana, father of Susannah and Camilla. Emeritus Professor, University of Oxford, Emeritus Fellow of Brasenose College. Private funeral, no flowers, but donations if desired to Sir Michael Sobell House, The Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7LJ. Memorial meeting at a later date.

IN MEMORIAM

JACK: Tertius William, fondly remembered on this day. Much missed husband to Gwyneth, father to Deborah and Robin, grandfather to Jamie, Nick and Hayley.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr John Alderton, actor, 58; Professor John Ashworth, chairman, British Library Board, 60; Mr Rodney Bewes, actor, 61; Lord Bridges, former diplomat, 71; Mr Robert Dougall, television presenter, 85; Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn, defence consultant, 71; Mr James Evans, former chairman, Press Association, 66; Lord Howard de Walden, racehorse owner and breeder, 86; Dr Kim Howells MP, 52; Miss Verity Ann Lambert, film producer, 63; Sir John Maddox, writer, broadcaster and former editor, *Nature*, 73; Baroness Mallalieu, QC, 53; Mrs Margaret Parry, former Headmistress, Heathfield School, 79; Mr Alan Simpson, writer and scriptwriter, 69; Mr Ernie Wise, comedian, 73.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Anders Celsius, astronomer and thermometer inventor, 1701; John Murray, publisher, 1778; Chaim Weizmann, biochemist and first president of Israel, 1874.
Deaths: Horace, Roman poet, 8 BC; Clovis, first King of France, 511; Alexandre Dumas the Younger, novelist and playwright, 1895; Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, playwright, 1953; Ross McWhirter, compiler of the *Guinness Book of Records*, killed by the IRA 1975.
On this day: William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, 1582; two women at Grantham, Lincolnshire, became the first policewomen, 1914.
Today is the Feast Day of Saints Barlaam and Josaphat, St Cungar of Somerset, St Fergus of Strathern, St James Intercisus, St Maximus of Riez, St Secundinus or Sechnall and St Virgil of Salzburg.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Visions (iv): Parmigianino, *The Madonna and Child with Saints John the Baptist and Jerome*", 2pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Patricia Baker, "Late Islamic Pottery", 2pm.
Tate Gallery: Karen Hearn, "In Celebration – The Art of the Country House", 1pm.
British Museum: Joyce Filer, "Diet and Disease in Ancient Egypt", 11.30am.
Centre for Regional Studies, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge: Beth Davis, "Cromwell's Houses", 6.30pm.
Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Joanna MacGregor and Professor Stephen Pratt, "Messiaen: visions and apocalypse", 1pm.
Leicester University (Peach Memorial Lecture): Sir Jocelyn Stevens, "The Heritage and Regeneration", 8pm.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to he held tomorrow may he obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.43pm.

United Synagogues: 0121-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York begins a visit to Kuwait. Prince Edward begins a visit to Jordan as the guest of Crown Prince Hassan; he will visit the British Council, British Food Week at Ahlia Abella Stores, and the Noor Al Hussein Performing Arts Centre. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends their Primary Quality Mark Reception at Commonwealth House, London WC1; and opens the Wiltshire Cardiac Centre at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, Wiltshire. The Duke of Kent, Colonel, attends the 50th annual dinner of the Scots Guards Warrant Officers and Sergeants (Past and Present) Association in the Connaught Rooms, London WC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

VAT offences should be indicted separately

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

27 NOVEMBER 1998

Regina v Stanley

Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Brooke, Mr Justice Kay and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) 17 September 1998

WHERE IT was alleged that an accused had committed two different forms of condnct during the same period, both of which constituted an offence contrary to section 72(8) of the Valne Added Tax Act 1994, they should be charged in separate counts in the indictment.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the interlocutory appeal of Bert Stanley under section 9(11) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 against the decision of the trial judge to allow the amendment of an indictment preferred against him.

The appellant was one of seven men facing trial on an indictment alleging the evasion of VAT. When the bill of indictment was preferred it contained a single count alleging conduct which must have involved the commission of offences under section 72(1) and/or section 72(2) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994, contrary to section 72(8) of the Act. The particulars of the offence alleged conduct in relation (i) to the under statement of output tax, and (ii) to false claims in respect of input tax.

On arraignment, the appellant pleaded not guilty, hut subsequently indicated to the Crown that he was prepared to change his plea, hut only the basis that he admitted fraudulent conduct in relation to input tax.

The Crown did not accept that the appellant's involvement was so limited. The appellant's offer of a guilty plea on a limited basis caused them to reconsider the indictment, and to conclude that, in that the single count allowed guilty pleas or convictions which left at large or unresolved the question of the amount of tax evaded and the means by which it had been evaded, it could be said to he defective within the terms of the Indictments Act 1915.

They applied to the trial judge to amend the indictment so as to split the single count into two separate counts. They were in identical terms, save that the first count contained as particulars of conduct the conduct contained in the original indictment relating to output tax, and the second count contained the original particulars relating to input tax.

Despite the appellant's opposition to the application, the judge allowed the amendment, and the appellant apealed against his order under section 9(11) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

Benjamin Nicholls (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Malcolm Morse (Solicitor for HM Customs and Excise) for the Crown.

Mr Justice Kay said that an indictment could be amended where it was defective, where an amendment was needed to meet the circumstances of the case, and where there would he no injustice to the accused.

The court had deliberately chosen to give a wide meaning to the word "defective", so as to render indictments capable of deciding the issue that properly should he determined between the Crown, on the one hand, and the defendants on the other.

In the present case, the Crown said that there were two distinct ways in which the fraudulent evasion of VAT had taken place, and that those were matters that ought properly to be the subject of a determination by a jury, rather than being left for resolution by a judge, provided that that could properly be done in an indictment.

In so far as an indictment was drawn which did not allow for such determination by a jury, it could properly he described as defective, and the question then arose whether it could be amended to a form which would enable the issues to be resolved.

It was submitted that section 72(8) of the 1994 Act, against which both offences were alleged to have been committed, created a single offence relating to a person's conduct during a specified period, and that it was not open to the Crown to allege two different forms of conduct in separate counts in the same indictment.

However, where the Crown could specify two different types of conduct, albeit taking place during the same period, those could and should be separated so that the jury could resolve the particular issues.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

CALLS TO THE BAR

Lincoln's Inn

Sonny Dindyal; Colin Joseph Kenneth Foster; Iftekar Ahmed Hoque; Sarah Patricia Dunn; Marissa Anne Tan; Yaw Bash; Mohammed Salauddin Mollah, Joyce Cheng Lye Lee, Ranadhir Gupta; Su Chin Ng; Edwin Leroy Knowles; Yogesh Kalme Sadi; Tristan Laurence Tritscoll; Silo Gladys Monekosso; Anuthura Krishnasamy; David McDonald; Hong Ann Khoo; Rebecca Elizabeth Hearsey; Claire Nazar; Sarwat Siraj; Nicholas John Leslie; Taha Akkat; Kevin Male; Rajan Supramaniam; Mohammad Zakir; Noorjaham Murlena Bandali; Louis Joseph Lourdes; Andrew Lenthall Wills; Juma Boyum Miah; Kanis Fatima Ali; Sandra Tan Mei Yee; Su Shong Shawn Tan; Vijaya Kumaree Sumpath; Claire Hancock.

Beverley Joanna Layne; Reena Ravinder Matharoo; George Lee Swee Seng; Chew Eng Cheng; David Iain Adamson; Ong Keen Jin; Julius Weks; Sharmila Ramanathan; Shanmoogam Coluday; Vernishka Valton; Kenneth Hugh D'Aguilar; Radhakrishan Nemchand; Barry John Harwood; Martin Lewis First; Sally Ruth Fudge; Michael Jonathan Farquharson Riner; Faunia Merchant; Lisa-Jane Bland; Jonathan Michael Raymond Chico; Md Eyder Ali; Mark Anthony Jenkins; Ramesh Ram Chandra; Rasalind Jayne Phelps; Neil Bisarya; Ian William Hutton; Sayanthu Bishad Sprosie De Saram; Andy Joy Kwan Loong; Michael Cassell; Freddie Kuok Lin Tan; Nawaz Mohammed Razaq; Susan Ann Edwards; Fazia Anjum Rashid; Robert Edward Hawkins.

Pranay Sampat; Paul Albert Gilbert; Gwendolyn Patricia Wright; Sabeena Dawood Rawat; Rebecca Elizabeth Bedhead; Michael Jurgen Lindemann; Su Li Shirley Foon; Syed Nasiruddin Adam; Elizabeth Gail Brennan; Paul Antony Turner; Sara Louise Worrall; Yvonne Al Wah Gat; Mark Beesley; Jeremy Mark Exeter Tamer Hassan; David Alexander Cheetham; Amanda De Winter; Rameson Rathinesamy; Nichole Denise Reparon; Katherine Elizabeth Titchmarsh; Donna Marie Agar; Michael Joseph Barakis; Peter John Lowrie; Leandros Pistas; Barshana Jayakodu Wickramatilaka Nanayakkara; Louise Caroline Bolton; Christopher James Bulleyment; Daniel Joseph Wise; Clara Nieves Westbrook; Ajanta Kaza; Alicia Anetta Rekt; Gerard Martin McNeely; Tarjinder Kaur Phull; Gail Lanza Brickman.

Julian Harvey Mellows; Emily Anna Louise Cutcerhouse; Anit Kaur Randhawa; Lisa Varley; Caroline Truscott; Peter Nigel Garvie; Richard John Hinton; Reno Terrance Richardo Bethell; Alexander Clifford Basil Lee Payton; Alison Meryl Meacher; Kristian Samuel Dalnes; Henry Fred Joseph; Thomas Henry Dunn; Ahmer Sajid; Angie Cheng Siew Lin; Simran Raina; Vijayalakshmi Navaratnam; Nalini Cindy Ramparsad; Muhammad Shahjahan Omar; Colin Dowarris; Diarmuid Rossa Phelan; Philip Lenin Landait; Daniel Alan Quakate; Steven Robert Langton; Emma Jane Mary Chamberlain; Andrew McGee; Paul Michael Gerard McKrown.

Inner Temple

Henry George John King; Robert Simon Young; Elvin Jacobson; Kathleen Mary McMahon; Binay Karia; Georgia Stephanie Reid; Edward David Charles Rizzo-Gill; Philion Moore; Alfred William Phillips; Bhupasamy Jayakumar Naidu; John Charles Collis; Paul Martin Hemsley; Anna Charlotte Edwards; Julie Dawn Catt; Jacqueline Collins; Emma Jane Bluett Griffith Griffin; David Philip Brewitt; Grady Jon Stannard; Lorens Jacobus Petrus Van Der Meij; Esther Hudson; Marvin Dominic Kunnicki; Rupert William Manley Lowe; Stuart Scott; Henry Yaw Larbi Addison; Sara Betty Dickerson; Anthony Edward Timpson; Dylan Daniel Stokes; Catherine Jane Baker; Lisa Nancy Wicks.

James Colin Hollingshead; Tracy Jane Gordon; Alistair James George Grainger; Gary Philip Sector; Helen Louise Gamble; Evelyn Ann Joan Hawkins; Busola Johnson; Michael John Taylor; Mark Nicholas Stevenson; Fiona Rosalind Jackson; Tabitha Lucy Mackarness; Claire Louise Matthews; Ebrunka Semaga-Jamieh; Stephen Thomas Hewitt; Jacqueline Wedzibe Onaiz; Farshad Arabzad; John Rooney; Ian David Howard; Robert Shrieves-Yeates; Nicholas Andre Cooper; Oliver Egerton Jones.

Sarah Jane Kohl; Edric Oliver Brabbins; Tanya Leah Gate; Mark Gareth Jordan; Gerald Fergus Malone; Keith Vincent; William Ambrose Leighton Thomas; Dwight Donald Glinton; Matthew David Fitzcaldne; Jonathan Gerald Challenor; Jasmi Rabi Ooganah; Clifford Bagley; Steven James White; Paul James Costello; Susanna Catherine Knight; Melissa Marie Brigitte Lesson; Peter Stewart Sethen; Christopher McCallum Collart; Nicola Jane Muir; Bruce Andrew Jones. In Absentia: Evelina Kondournari.

Middle Temple

William John Teasdale Welsh; Anna Denise Marianne De Chassiron; Christopher David Lewis; Ronald Grieve Armstrong; Cecilia Helen Hales; Jack Roberts; Spring Tan; Paul Charles Johnston; Nadarajah Jeganathan; Dominick Clunge; Daniel Benjamin Squires; Harold Alexander Best; Kasam Gaschi; Mais Haider Sithawalla; Rathinakumar Subramaniam; Paul Nicholas Barrett; Christopher William McPherson Deane; Victoria Jean Lockley; Robert Edward McMillan; Chong Ting Lee; Ping Kiang Ting; Victoria Mary Allene; Shabnam Arsalan; Johann Pieter Rainbird; Edward James Bedley Peters; Anthony Kevin Ramshaw; Elizabeth Mary Hodgetts; Sarah McKeown.

Richard Alan Herring; James McCracken; Ji Yoon Ryou; Waringa Njenje; Dujeayan Ian Sen; Eleanor Alice Mary Duke; Lucianne Mary Allen; Mizouna Jaffer; Eric Leroy Wilmott; Mumtaz Patak; Gordon Lee; Karen Lorraine Winchey; Ann Avril Dayan; Donald Robert Lovas Bamlo; Sarah Rebecca Sands; Thian Huat Ho; Yin Ming Chan; Timothy Charles Styles; Elizabeth Mary Rudland Mair; Catherine Joanne Addy; David John Morgan; Mark Richer. Yuet Lai Ng; Andrew Neil McIntyre McMahon; Alexander Robert Last; William Anthony Marcus Carmody Cooper; Sungyun Hah; Helen Fiona Thompstone; Katherine Elizabeth Grange.

Benjamin Hawkin; Xenia Stavrou; Yee Shing Tam; Sze Chaing Ng, Beverley Lyane Jones; Peter Chi Yeung Kwok; Mohamed Zamjah Bibi Hashim; Heidi Kristina Bjornson-Pennell; Amber Nicole Turner; Toby James Huggins; Timothy Raj Gunaratnam; Hung Yung Gregory Fong; Morlees Elahi Chowdhury; Collette Lianne Rawnsley; Rebekah Maxine Wilson; Darren Francis Trendale; Spencer John Neale; David Richard Callow; Tiffany Anne Scott; Paul William Shea; Dick Jeremy Kwan Tai; Anthony John Dearing; Rebecca Louise Vibert; Amanda Jane Sandford; Fatma Amani Karume.

Carl David O'Shea; Gaynor Marie Chambers; Louis-Peter Alfonso-Maria Mackenzie Moll; Sally-Ann Davis; Christopher Allan Fowler; Cecilia Susannah Hester Church; Eleanor Catherine Stewart; Carolyn Astrid Louise Solomon; Sunita Devi Rabuti; Julian Horst; Christina Frances Chimosh; Lee Bennett; Mark Timothy Edwin Stephens; Aisha Sabiha Chaudhry; Kevin Brendan O'Shea; Toyin Salako-Olorunleni; Nicholas Michael Schynnych; Kristian Anthony Mills; Simon Maurice Rundle; Eng Thye Teo; Mark Stephen James; Samantha Noelle Gott; Daron Ze'ev Blum.

Diana Kate Walker; David William Allison; Martin James Palmer; Clive David Chalkley; Ramesh Lawrence Makaraj; Roger Nicholas Mallabee; John Llewellyn Gladstone Davies; Benjamin Charles Dugard Showell; Lucy Bassanne Frew; Joanne Victoria Wardale; Katherine McKee; Catherine Jane McCafferty; Angela Gardner; Alison Dawn Smith; Shelley Raphael Walsh Griffith; Nayyera Mahmood; Abigail Bennett; Jocelyne Chantal Cierin; Junior Lloyd McDonald; Pamela Lincoln Brown; Andy Glenn Daniel; Maicie McManus; Alistair Wyvill; Kevin Sean Peter McCavish; David Attard; Michael Samson Glasse.

Gray's Inn

John Eastham; Mahesh Beeharry; Sammy Azizkoo Freminot; Tasos Andrea Concomis; Veronica Tamse Gordon; Electra Kretorrion; Alexander William Troup; Adrian Paul Brian Fowler; Neil John Sheldon; James William Nicholaster; Michael Daniel Serafini; Katherine Sarah Toogood; Mohammed Abdul Aziz; George Nicholas Roger Davies; James Davidson Prasell; Matthew Randall Cobbe; Catarina Marianne Sjolin; Sion ap Mihangel; Giles Nagel Ridgeway; Stephen Paul Wood; Duncan Iain Lewis; Sophie Jane Lamb; Sinead Cecilia Agnew; Mark Philip Burdell; Giles Joseph Mooney; Dafydd Huw Davies; Marinos Tyrrographos; Michael Joseph Gleeson.

Benjamin Timothy Douglas-Jones; Kambriz Mortaffar; Rhys Matthew Jones; Russell Shenstone-Davies; Lisa John; Rosanne Sammarielle, Camille Chaudhury; Susannah Rachel Louise Bird; Nigel Philip Trevor Clive; Leo John Hall; Susan Helen Jenkins, Ramkarpal Singh; Christina Charalambous; Deana Kay Smith; Matthew Thomas Gent; Judith Alison Donnelly; David James West; Sarah Jane Gregory; Susan Kordi; Joanna Mary Kavanagh; Gareth Lee Gimson; Richard Christopher Hoppden.

Christopher John Hamilton Blackley; Rutheinsula Jabeen Hussain; Martin Andrew Knight; Kathy Jones; Rachel Langat; Jason Thomas Bailey; Katherine Elizabeth Hayes; Francis Lee McEntegart; Teresa Josephine Kelly; Dominic Raphael Marc Thomas; Tunlope Theresa Adegbola; Michelle Cathendi Barrow; Anne Lesley Bootle Robert Bernstein; Mark Douglas Hurdle; Peter Alexander Lowndes; Jacqueline Rosann Forbes; Denis Shawn Desker; Li Yien Soo.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

extroversion, *n.*

A RECENT edition of *The New York Times* referred to the salsa singer India's *extroversion*. It can mean a malformed bladder, and one trusts that this is not the reason for her shimmying performances.

It also surfaces in the genteel purlieux of Lorrie Moore's recent collection of stories, *Birds of America*. Somebody stares "at her own reflection: in an attempt at *extroversion*, she had worn a tunic with large slices of watermelon depicted on the front".

It is a logical development from the adjective extrovert, hut little used in England. Originally, in the 17th century, it had a religious, mystical connotation, and acquired its psychological tang in the 1920s, but the *OED* last notes its use in 1959. Lorrie Moore would surely add local colour to the entry.

The day after the morning before

MARK STEEL

ON LOCATION

IT WAS a sense of superiority I hadn't felt since doing a milk round. I came out of the pub in Smithfield market at 10 in the morning, looked at the rest of civilisation and thought, "I've already got drunk today and some of you lazy sods *haven't* even started work."

The Hope opens every day at seven. By this time the road outside is full of choruses of "Wo wo wo wo wo" being yelled at reversing lorries, forklift truck drivers whistling "I Will Survive", stalls being hosed, carcasses on shoulders, and porters wheeling trolley-loads of pig heads, the odd one spilling on to the road. Strangely, the pigs' faces have a happier expression than you ever see on a complete pig.

Witnessing these barrows seems to highlight the flaw in the *vegetarian argument* that runs, "I don't know how you could eat that when it was once a living creature." See these trolleys and you realise the answer is simply, "It's not now though, is it?" After all, if you didn't eat that pork chop, it would be very unlikely to grow a squiggly tail and revert to running around in mud. *If* I was captured by cannibals, I'd be even more annoyed if I thought that after boiling me they'd say "I don't know how you could" and sling me on a skip.

Despite this activity, going into a pub at that time feels like smoking in the school toilets. It's seedy and makes you one of the bad kids, and you expect the door to swing open at any moment to reveal a man in a tie shouting, "What the hell is the meaning of this? I will NOT have drinking at this time of the morning!"

The first pint tastes a little awkward, in the knowledge that it's being drunk before the *Farming Today* team have left the studio. But you're soon into a rhythm, made easier by the way the session corresponds to normal drinking hours, except *it's am instead of pm*. There's even a couple snogging in the corner. I can see why couples snog in pubs in the evening, losing self-control in public as a prelude to going to bed. But why would any couple that was already in bed think, "As we're both snuggled up and feeling romantic, let's go to the early morning pub and snog behind some blokes who are covered in dried sheep's blood"?

Occasionally, there are reminders of the time of day. A labourer on his way to work, in one action, expressed more about the current labour shortage in the building trade than any *Financial Times* supplement. He dialled a number on his mobile phone, then said, "I shan't be in until nine. I'm stuck on a train in London Bridge", making no effort to hide the pub noises around him. Then he ordered another pint.

Two railway engineers off their night shift were succeeding in making almost every second word a derivative of the F-word, and at one point complained that their bed and breakfast had given them jam mixed in with the "*margafuckinrene*". A *devilish* trick, to fit an extra one in the middle of a word.

Despite this, sociologists would delight in how the clientele symbolises the disappearance of the working class. The pub is open traditionally for workers from the market, but Smithfield is in decline, and now only one corner is occupied by butchers and porters, wearing their traditional uniform of white overalls tinted with splashings of blood. The supermarkets had all but ruined the butchers' trade, Tom told me. *Smithfield only survives at all*, he said, through the Chinese, Greek and Turkish trade. "Besides, I'll get home, have a kip, get up for dinner, go back to bed and be up at 1.30 ready for tomorrow. No youngster today would work those hours."

So the biggest group was of "youngsters" in their twenties, including three women and a lad in a woollen Rastafarian hat, probably on their way back from an all-night club.

At the bar, one of the railwaymen was rattling through *The Daily Telegraph* crossword. What would happen, I wondered, if one of the answers was "margarine"? Would he be unable to work it out, certain that this was a 15-letter word? Shortly afterwards, in a three-minute period, the railwaymen exchanged abusive stories about women, completed the last five clues of the crossword, made lyrical speeches about the classical tiles and windows in the pub, and had a violent argument about whether or not Wigan comes under Greater f***in' Manchester.

I reminded the labourer that he had 10 minutes before his nine o'clock deadline. "You're right," he acknowledged, and bought another round.

Then there was Bill the butcher, and I promise this is word for word. "I tell you why this meat industry's been ruined – 'cos we just sit back and put up *with bleedin' anything in this* country. It's like in restaurants, we put up with anything. But you try selling a German a lump of shit! He won't have it.

"Now your British farmers were told to scrap their sheep and offered 25 pence each for them. See, if they'd been like the French they'd have driven them sheep to town, slit their throats, let 'em bleed all over the road, and said, 'There y'are, clear that bleedin' mess up.' Either that or tipped 'em in the Channel, and said 'Steer yer ferries round them bastards.' You'd have Tony bleedin' Blair on the telly, the Animal Rights mob jumping about, then they'd have got more than 25 pence."

And then he said, "Mind you, don't get me wrong, I hate the French."

That was so impressive. He was clearly worried for a moment that I'd go away thinking, "He seems like a nice bloke. But the only thing is he doesn't hate the French."

Then he finished his drink, got up and said, "All right mate, nice meeting you, I'm off now to chop up another 300 of the bastards."

Following his dramatic exit, I spoke to the groups of supposed club veterans, who turned out to be media analysts for the *Financial Times*. Could any two jobs be further apart? Surely a *Financial Times* media analyst is as perfect a symbol of modern yuppiedom, as a Smithfield meat porter is of old working-class values. Yet the analysts had finished their shift at six, earned less than the other trades and had less job security. The old butcher was right about youngsters not wanting to work those hours, but wrong to assume that today's 20-year-olds have any more say than he does about whether they do or not. Or that their job is any less likely to drive them to the pub at seven in the morning. There in one bar stood the epitome of the old and new workforce, with far more to unite them than divide them.

The labourer finished his drink and slowly put on his coat. "I suppose the boot's on your foot at the moment on the buildings," I said. "That's right, it's been on theirs for long enough," he answered. And the media analysts knew exactly what he meant.

The princes and the call girls

It was the case with everything: high-class hookers, Hollywood stars and a small-time crook out of his depth. *Toute la France* sat in judgement. Now it awaits a verdict. By **John Lichfield**

Nadia M., one of the alleged victims of Bourgeois and Brumark, arrives at court in Paris *Niko/Jobard/Rex*

A de luxe, call-girl ring? An international prostitution agency for the jet-set? Both descriptions are redolent of furs, jewels, penthouse suites and a kind of perverted glamour, but are hopelessly misleading. A trial which ended in Paris yesterday revealed something more disturbing: a casually arrogant conspiracy to purvey naïve, star-struck young women to the rich and famous.

A failed fashion photographer, Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, 51, faces six years in jail for enticing, or tricking, 86 young women – some as young as 15 or 16 – into prostitution with the promise of a career in modelling or the movies. Three other people face lesser penalties when the court gives its reserved judgment next month.

Clients are said to have included the actor, Robert De Niro, the former tennis star, Wojtek Fibak, the French film producer, Alain Sarde, the former Emir of Qatar, one of the brothers of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and Christian Courtin, the head of Clarins, the large French cosmetics company.

The case is not yet over. The other alleged, principal organiser of the conspiracy, Annika Brumark, 50, a one-time Swedish beauty queen, will be tried in May when her lawyer has recovered from a road accident. Two of the clients of the agency – Fibak and Sarde – are still under investigation and may yet face charges of rape and assault.

Brumark, it is alleged, was the real brains behind the network, *taking 40 per cent of all* the money paid by the clients. Bourgeois, at first, took no money. His reward was to force the glamour-befuddled girls to have sex with him. Gradually, he too was sucked into treating what began as a vicious game into a money-spinner.

Nadia M. was 20 years old when she fell into the silken trap extended by Bourgeois in 1996. A pathetically thin French girl of Moroccan origin, she told the court that she was a shop assistant, living in a welfare hostel, when spotted by one of the photographer's friends. "I was a girl with no money, lost, defenceless," she said. "He promised me a career as a model – big hotels, money, the chance to meet famous people. Above *all*, he promised *that I* would get out of the hostel."

On their second meeting, she said, Bourgeois persuaded her to undress for photographs which would, he said, launch her to stardom. He also seduced her. A few days later, the photographer took her to the home of his "friend", the French movie producer, Alain Sarde (producer of *Paparazzi*). She said that Bourgeois told her: "If he wants to go to bed with you, do it. It'll be good for your career in the cinema." She had sex with Sarde and was given F1,500 (£150).

Nadia said she was "presented" soon afterwards to Robert De Niro but nothing happened; she said she was urged by Bourgeois to have sex with Fibak, but refused. That summer, she was packed off to Saint Tropez, where she was told her career would finally take off. Instead, she said, she found herself on a yacht – with another girl – performing sexual acts with the Qatari millionaire, William Kazan.

Bourgeois, an unkempt man with lank grey hair, who stood in court with the help of a cane, denied the charges of *proxénétisme*, or pandering (prostitution, as such, is not illegal in France). All he had done, he said, was "present" a few girls to his friends. Challenged by the court president to say whether he knew that Nadia was prostituting herself, Bourgeois admitted: "With Sarde, yes. With Kazan, I only knew later."

A Swedish girl, Julia, 16 at the time, also said that she had been taken aboard Kazan's yacht for photo sessions, where she claimed, she was sexually attacked. Bourgeois said Julia had gone aboard the yacht willingly and made no complaint at the time. Girls would be persuaded to have lurid photographs taken to circulate to film companies and modelling agencies. Instead, the court was told, Bourgeois would send folders of the pictures, on approval, to potential clients. If the girls refused to play along, they were warned that the photos would be sent to their families.

Even after the victims had been persuaded to prostitute themselves, the fact that the clients were often celebrities from the cinematic and fashion world helped to preserve the fiction that the women were climbing the ladder of fame.

Almost half the girls questioned by police had been promised a job modelling for the Clarins cosmetics company. Several girls claimed to have been taken to the office of the head of the company, Christian Courtin. "Bourgeois told me not to wear any underwear, because the lines would show," said Magadelena O. "Courtin asked me to undress and then touched my thighs and buttocks. He promised me a job in his next advertising campaign."

Sarde, a respected figure in French cinema, admitted in a written statement read to the court, that Bourgeois had sent him 17 girls while he was casting for *Paparazzi* in 1996. He denied any knowledge of promises made to the girls that they might get a part in the movie. "Bourgeois took advantage of my name ... as far as I was concerned, all the girls he sent to my bachelor flat on the Avenue George V came as prostitutes. The proof was that they all left with the FF1,500 agreed with Bourgeois."

'Almost half the girls questioned by the police had been promised a job modelling for the Clarins cosmetics company'

One of the other defendants, Nazihabdullatif al Ladki, was a Lebanese businessman and former private secretary to Prince Fawaz of Saudi Arabia, brother of King Fahd. He admitted dealing with Bourgeois over a period of six years, in which the photographer provided a stream of girls for his employer. "It's something quite natural among Arab princes to want pretty girls," Al Ladki told the court. "It wasn't pimping."

When he visited Paris, Prince Fawaz would organise elegant soirées for his wife at the Hotel Crillon or Hotel Royal Monceau. In the meantime, Bourgeois would send two or three girls around to the Prince's three-storey apartment on the Avenue Montaigne, off the Champs-Elysées. "If he liked the girls, (the prince) would give them FF10,000 (£1,000) each," said Al Ladki. He would also give "presents" to Bourgeois, including FF50,000 on one occasion.

The six-day trial has been equally disturbing for what it has not revealed. There has been no reference in court to the two, centre-right French politicians, mentioned as regular clients of Bourgeois (but not named) in the report of the investigating magistrate who unravelled the affair.

There has been talk of "other famous names" on the client list – including, allegedly, well-known figures in British cinema – but no attempt has been made to elucidate the matter. There has been no exploration of the fact, also mentioned in the investigating magistrate's report, that the French interior ministry and foreign ministry tried to have the entire inquiry quashed.

It has been suggested, in leaks from the magistrate's office, that the Bourgeois-Brumark operation became, briefly, a kind of state-approved broker, providing girls to assist French arms companies to sweeten their deals with Gulf clients. Since this kind of thing was bound to happen, the foreign ministry and security services reasoned, it was better that a "known" and closely watched call-girl service should be used. This reduced the risk of blackmail or "pillow leaks" of secret negotiations.

So why was such an apparently politically protected network prosecuted, when others are not? Paris, like London, has scores of alleged escort agencies. Part of the answer is obvious: the operation run by Bourgeois was a particularly nasty one of its kind. Most of the women provided were not fully consenting professional adults. Bourgeois and the three other defendants faced charges not just of pandering but "aggravated pandering".

Another part of the answer is that the case fell into the hands of one of a new breed of young, tenacious and publicity-conscious investigating magistrates, who have transformed the French judicial landscape during the past 10 years. A generation ago, a case with such political sensitivities might easily have become derailed long before it reached a French court: the wrong-doers would have been warned off, rather than prosecuted.

The investigating judge in this case, Frédéric N'Guyen, seems to have taken a positive delight in ruffling the feathers of the rich, powerful and arrogant. He was able to resist the pressure from the centre-right government, in power until June last year, to bury the case. Once a Socialist-led government came to power, he was able to make more progress.

Even then, however, he was prevented by the public prosecutor's office from extending his inquiry to areas of political sensitivity, including the alleged use of prostitution in arms diplomacy. He was refused permission to pursue his investigation of the links between Bourgeois and a shadowy character called Paul Barril, who once ran the dirty tricks department in the Elysée Palace for François Mitterrand, and now runs his own security agency for Gulf clients.

N'Guyen was also ticked off by the public prosecutor's office – with some justice – for his highly publicised "arrest" of Robert De Niro in Paris, early this year. De Niro, who was never more than a witness in the case, admitted having sex with girls presented by Bourgeois, but denied paying for their services.

The whole affair has left the French legal system splattered with bad blood. N'Guyen's annoyance with what he sees as political interference by the *parquet* (the public prosecutor's office), was leaked to the French press. As a "punishment", part of his inquiries – the possible rape charges against Fibak and Sarde – were lopped off and given to a more docile investigating judge.

In an extraordinary summing up on Tuesday – even by the standards of baffling French judicial mores – the duty public prosecutor, Pascal Le Fur, took even further revenge. He spent two hours attacking Judge N'Guyen, nominally his own colleague, before turning to his case against Bourgeois and the others. In an unprecedentedly savage public roasting, Judge N'Guyen – the man who first brought the whole affair to light – was accused by the state prosecution service of publicity seeking and "taking liberties with the law and penal procedure".

Where does all this leave us, pending the second trial in May of Annika Brumark?

The case has exposed how confused the borderline is between the casting couch and prostitution; how easily star-struck girls can be entrapped to serve the desires of wealthy men; and how arrogantly such men – none of whom have even appeared in court as a witness – can exploit such girls without scruple or question.

But the case has also left the uneasy impression that – if found guilty – Bourgeois and his alleged accomplices are convenient fall guys for a wider and more complex tapestry of politics, celebrity, arms-deals and vice.

No more back to the future

To the dismay of science fiction fans, physicists have proved time only moves forwards. By Charles Arthur

In his novel *Time's Arrow*, Martin Amis examined the question of what the world would look like if time ran backwards. Taxis would reverse to the kerb, where the driver would hand us money before driving us in reverse to somewhere he could disgorge us.

How do we know that is not how the real world runs – apart from the taxi driver'a unrealistic generosity? In fact, how do we know that time has a direction at all?

At atomic level, it has long seemed that the laws of fundamental physics, as discovered by Newton and Einstein, would allow time to run forwards or backwards. Physicists say the equations are "time-symmetric": their accuracy is not affected by the direction of time. The fact that those laws do not seem to ban time travel has delighted science fiction writers for years.

But earlier this month 100 scientists from nine countries published the results of a three-year collaborative project. It demonstrated, for the first time, that in our universe at least, time moves in only one direction.

The experiment, called CP-LEAR (Charge Parity experiment in the Low Energy Antiproton Ring), was carried out to study the differences between matter and antimatter, the "converse" of matter. Antimatter particles have the same mass but opposite charge (and other characteristics) to their matter counterparts; in theory, every matter particle has an antiparticle. The electron's counterpart is the positively charged positron, for example.

When a particle and its antiparticle meet, the two annihilate each other in a burst of light energy. What physicists therefore find strange about antimatter is its general absence in the universe. Theory suggests that the Big Bang should have created equal amounts of matter and antimatter. Why didn't they eliminate each other at the universe's birth?

"That is the big mystery," says Professor Frank Close, from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Didcot. He is presently on secondment to Cern, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva, Switzerland, which led the CP-LEAR work. Antimatter has not been found "free" in the wider universe, despite careful searches.

One suggestion is that time affects particles and antiparticles differently. Early quantum physics assumed that, like other laws of physics, subatomic reactions would be the same no matter which way time flowed. If you started with a group of particles and antiparticles with known charges and "parities" (measurable quantities such as "spin" and "flavour"), then banged them together and measured the charge and parity of the resulting particles, the totals would be the same before and after. Physicists called this "CPT symmetry" – for charge parity time symmetry.

However, physicists always want to check such assumptions with the real world. They could not run time backwards, but they could experiment with antiparticles by pretending that antiparticles were just particles moving back in time.

Testing this idea experimentally meant evaluating the charge and parity of every particle produced in thousands of high-speed particle collisions in high-energy accelerators. In 1964 a Japanese team discovered that, in some reactions, the totals differed.

This effect, known as "charge parity violation", or CP violation, centres on an electrically neutral particle called the K meson, or kaon. In most reactions, it simply broke down into three pi mesons (pions). But in a fraction of cases, it decayed into only two pions – violating CP symmetry.

The experiment put a bomb underneath the idea that time could run in either direction. For 30 years CP violation bothered physicists; they needed more powerful particle accelerators to confirm what was happening.

Finally, in 1995, a set of new experiments set out to test this, using kaons and their antiparticles, antikaons. These are short-lived particles produced by the collision of antiprotons with hydrogen atoms. (Hence the use of the Low Energy Antiproton Ring for the work.) Kaons can turn into antikaons – and antikaons can turn into kaons – until they finally decay into an electron, a pion and a neutrino. By measuring the electron's exact charge, observers can determine whether the parent was a kaon or antikaon.

In a paper published last month in the journal *Physics Letters*, the international team working on the CP-LEAR experiment found that antikaons turned into kaons more often than kaons turned into antikaons. In other words, with time, antimatter is more likely to turn into matter – evidence of a clock running under the fabric of the universe.

Very possibly, this difference was one of the reasons our nascent universe turned into a matter-dominated place, instead of being snuffed out in a blast of gamma rays.

Of the CP-LEAR results, Professor Close says: "This is confirmation that everything we believe about the universe holds together."

So does that mean that time travel is impossible? Yes, according to Professor Close. "The way I describe it is that while you may not be able to tell which way a film is running when you see two billiard balls colliding, you'll certainly be able to tell if you see a white ball shooting towards a scattered group of balls on a table, after which they group together into a pyramid. You'd know it's crazy. You might be able to play tricks with time at the single-atom level, but not in the larger world."

The next step is to repeat the experiment using more massive, though also more elusive, subatomic particles. CERN and the American researchers now want to test CP violation using "bottom" quarks, one of the six varieties of quark (up, down, charm, strangeness, top and bottom). Quarks are the basic constituents of all particles with mass. Electrons consist of three quarks; mesons of a quark and an antiquark.

Time's arrow should be much more obvious with bottom quarks, but producing them calls for higher-energy collisions mimicking conditions in the early universe, when such quarks fleetingly roamed free.

The US is building an accelerator that, in about a year's time, will be able to produce bottom quarks. "That will give us an idea of what's happening," says Professor Close.

These experiments offer a justification for the cost of particle colliders, often derided by politicians looking for budgets to cut: they could tell us how the universe survived its birth.

"The idea of what time is at all and how at the atomic level we exist and pass through time – understanding that adds to the profundity of our understanding of the universe," says Professor Close. "Though on the other hand, when people ask me what time is, I sometimes tell them – well, it's the stuff that stops everything from happening at once."

Michael J Fox travels back in time and meets a younger version of Christopher Lloyd in Back to the Future. Not possible, physicists now say *Ronald Grant*

Update

A SIMPLE test for the presence of cholera bacteria has been devised by scientists who are trying to find a way of alerting people to the presence of the microbe before they start falling ill.

Basil Swanson from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States isolated the natural protein within cell membranes that binds to cholera toxin and embedded the receptor in an artificial membrane coating a glass bead. When a cholera toxin molecule binds to the membrane it causes a reaction that emits a red light from the bead. *New Scientist* reports that the US Army is studying a version of the test to see if it can be used on the battlefield to detect the use of biological weapons.

A CERAMIC pot thought to be for separating curds from whey might actually have been an early soldering device used to create the intricate metalwork patterns of the Bronze Age. How metalworkers created the delicately soldered knots and scrolls of wire has been a mystery because of the difficulties of creating a flame hot enough to melt metal yet small enough to be handled easily. Jacqui Wood, an archaeologist who runs the Cornwall Celtic Village, a reconstruction of a Bronze Age village, studied a pot with its sides riddled with holes that was thought to be a device for straining curds. The inside, however, was vitrified, indicating repeated heating. When she put a lit candle underneath, a flame 20 centimetres high shot from the top — just the sort of strong yet localised heat needed for soldering metal.

BREAKFAST CEREALS and bread are being contaminated with increasing numbers of small beetles and mites, according to a report in *New Scientist*. As the insects become resistant to pesticides, their rising numbers are posing problems for cereal manufacturers.

Ken Wildey of the Government's Central Science Laboratory in York found 81 per cent of the 279 grain stores he surveyed contained mites and 27 per cent were infested with beetles. He also found that 21 per cent of cereal-based foods contained mites, some of which could have been alive as his test killed the insects.

Stars And Planets: December

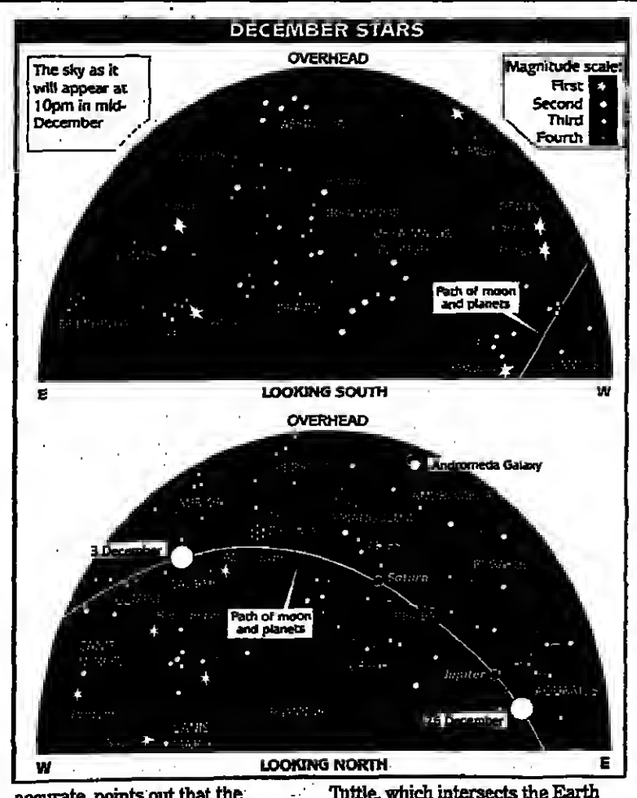
THE STORM of shooting stars that astronomers expected to see when the Leonid meteors hit Earth never materialised. Nasa, the American space administration, has egg on its face after sending a plane full of scientists and equipment across the Pacific to observe the event. The world'a experts were plumping for a storm at about 8pm on 17 November. The source of the meteors, the constellation Leo, would be below Britain's horizon, but high in the sky as seen from the Far East. We did think a sprinkling of meteors might still be around by the time Leo rose in British skies, in the small hours of the 18th, so we braved the chill to see just a couple of shooting stars.

Meanwhile, friends and colleagues who'd been up the previous night had been phoning in with descriptions of some brilliant fireworks early on the 17th. Meteors as bright as Venus; shooting stars that cast shadows; the odd fireball that rivalled the full Moon. One colleague was even woken by the brilliance of a fireball exploding outside his curtains.

Astronomers across Europe and beyond filed reports of brilliant Leonids that morning, falling at a rate of ten every minute. British astronomers in the Canary Islands saw even more, a meteor every few seconds, as dawn rose over the Atlantic. By the time Leo rose in the US, rates were down to one or two per minute. This was also the rate seen by disappointed astronomers in Japan and China, and the overflying Nasa scientists.

There was no great meteor storm to rival years such as 1966, when the US was treated to a sky filled with meteors falling like snow – up to 20 meteors every second. In these terms, the display seen from Europe this year was just a heavy shower.

What went wrong? Iwan Williams, of Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, whose cautious prediction for 1998 of four meteors per minute, was one of the most accurate, points out that the interplanetary debris causing the Leonid display does not come in a single stream. Most astronomers had focused on a dense bunch of debris, shed from comet Tempel-Tuttle, which intersects the Earth once in 33 years, and creates a true storm. Williams says that the Earth missed this dense patch, or maybe clipped its fringes. That's why there was no storm over east Asia.



But there is also a thin sprinkling of particles scattered around the comet's orbit, which gives us a meagre shower every year, about one meteor every five to ten minutes. In the excitement over a possible storm, many astronomers had neglected this "normal annual peak". But this year the tenuous stream was much denser than expected – and that's what hit us in the early morning of 17 November, exactly on time.

What does this mean for next year? Professor Williams is pessimistic. "The whole stream is drifting away from the Earth, so the normal peak may be enhanced but not as much as this year."

On the other hand, if we happen to hit the dense bunch of debris in 1999, there will be a storm visible over Europe that will dwarf this year's show. So we'll be taking no chances next year, even if it means losing two or three nights' sleep!

WHAT'S UP: Jupiter is still brilliant all evening, shining brighter than any of the stars. With good binoculars look for its four biggest moons. A small telescope will reveal some of the bands of cloud that stretch around the giant planet.

Turn your telescope to another bright "star" to the left of Jupiter, and you'll see the spectacular sight of Saturn and its famous rings, now tilted towards the Earth and visible in all their splendour. And a small telescope will show Saturn's largest moon, Titan, when it is furthest from the planet's glare, around 5, 13, 21 and 29 December.

Early on 14 December, look out for a shower of shooting stars from the northeast. You may catch one or two of these Geminid meteors each minute, streaming out from the Gemini constellation, the twins. Unlike most meteors, shed by comets, the Geminids are debris from an asteroid, called Phaethon.

NIGEL HENBEST AND HEATHER COUPER

DIARY

3rd	3.20pm	*Full Moon*
10th	5.55pm	*Moon at first quarter*
14th	4.00am	*Maximum of Geminid meteors*
18th	10.43pm	*New Moon*
20th		*Mercury at greatest western elongation*
22th	1.56am	*Winter solstice*
26th	10.47am	*Moon at first quarter*

The Truth About...

BEAUTY

BEAUTY IS truth and truth beauty, to quote John Keats. But what is the truth about beauty? A scientific investigation of what men find beautiful in a woman's shape suggests that concepts of beauty are more to do with Western influences than what comes as an inbuilt, or innate desire.

The accepted biological explanation for why men prefer women with waspish waists and wide hips is that a small waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) is a measure of Darwinian fitness. In other words, a thin waist and broad hips are an unequivocal indication that a female would make a good mate.

Healthy women have higher levels of the female hormone oestrogen than testosterone. This causes more fat to be deposited on the buttocks and thighs than on the waist, where men are more prone to put on weight, especially in middle age. Thin-waisted females with a low WHR are less likely than apple-shaped women with thickset waists to suffer from infertility and adult diabetes.

Evolutionary psychologists bave proposed that thin waists are a mark of good health and therefore would be selected during the course of human history to become a sexually alluring trait. A variation on the same theme proposes that thin waists and wide hips indicate to a male that a prospective mate is not already pregnant, and is well adapted for the physical trauma of childbearing.

Surveys of the sexual preferences of men from many different cultures have found that small WHRs are universally viewed as attractive. This is used as evidence that there must be a deeply engrained biological explanation for this male weaknesa rather than something more superficial, perhaps related to culture.

What makes Miss World so attractive to men? *Reuters*

However, as Douglas Yu and Glenn Shepard from Imperial College, London and the University of California, Berkeley, point out in this week's *Nature*, few if any cultures are not influenced by Western ideals of beauty. "Many of the remotest places on Earth have access to television, cinema and advertising posters displaying exceptionally gynoid [hourglass shaped] females draped over desirable products such as cars and beer," they say.

To test their idea that Western influences are more pernicious than scientists imagine, they went to a remote Andean tribe called the Matsigenka, who have lived in Manu Park, a remote region of southeast Peru in virtual isolation from the rest of the world. They chose to study the 300 villagers of Yomybato, whose degree of isolation "is about as high as can be obtained today".

Men from the village were shown six drawings of a woman in a bathing costume whose figure was altered to become progressively stouter with a varying waist-to-hip ratio. When asked to categorise each figure in order of attractiveness, the men of Yomybato favoured overweight females with thickset waists. Another group outside the perk, who had more contact with Western influences, also preferred overweight women but liked thin waists, indicating perhaps that this was something they had picked up from seeing Western advertisements.

"Our results suggest that when culturally isolated populations are taken into account, some supposedly invariant standards may prove malleable. As a result, many 'cross cultural' tests in evolutionary psychology may have only reflected the pervasiveness of Western media," the researchers say.

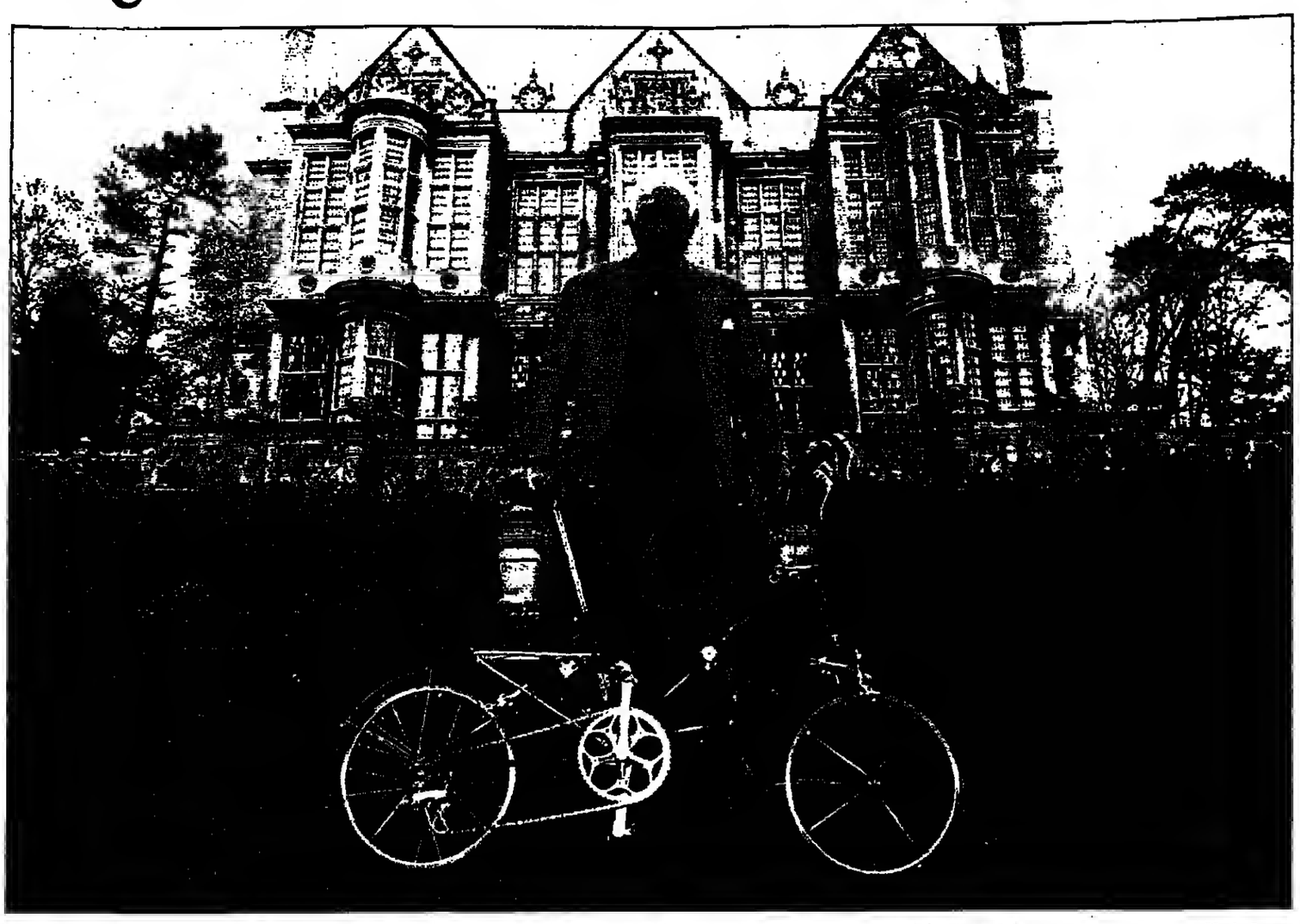
It appears that the truth about beauty has more to do with beauty being something that is, after all, measured in the eye of the beholder.

STEVE CONNOR

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 27 November 1998

A bicycle made for 2000

What did Sir Norman Foster choose as his object for a new Millennium? The Moulton New Series bike. By **Matthew Hoffman**



In with the old and the new: Alex Moulton, designer of the New Series bike, in the grounds of his Elizabethan house in Wiltshire *Chris Jones*

When it comes to objects of desire, mine is a £4,500 bicycle made of silver-brazed, stainless-steel aerospace tubing and engineered to give the most shock-free, efficient ride that has ever been available on a bicycle.

The designer (and manufacturer) of this bike is Alex Moulton, a West Country-based engineer, now 78 years old, who has dedicated his working career to creating, in his words, a bicycle that is "more pleasurable to have and more effective to use" than any other. (He has also spent a good deal of time creating suspension systems for the car industry, but that is another story.)

A bicycle is such a practical, and familiar, machine that one does not usually think of it as having been designed at all. And in fact, the evolution of the "safety bicycle", from the late 19th century to the present day, has mainly been one of "suck it and see" engineering. Even the recent development of suspended mountain bikes and the use of carbon-fibre composites and other exotic materials has mainly involved the application of incremental, pragmatic solutions to immediate problems, rather than any fundamental rethinking.

This intuitive procedure has been possible, according to Dr Moulton, because the original design, which was produced in nearly all its essentials by John Kemp Starley in 1886, was so sound that relatively slight changes in dimensions and materials could not undermine its essential character. Moulton's life-work, however, has been dedicated to rethinking *all* the basic principles of the bicycle to see if they could be improved. To do that, he has combined his training and experience as a mechanical engineer with his extensive knowledge of the properties of rubber. His family, in fact, has been designing and manufacturing things out of rubber since the 1840s, when his great-grandfather, Stephen Moulton, returned to England with a licence from his American friend, Charles Goodyear, to employ his discovery that rubber could be made pliable and durable by "vulcanisation" (the application of sulphur and heat).

This new bicycle, called in fact the New Series, is the end-product of a process of evolution reminiscent of the gradual improvements in the classic bicycle, with the difference that every detail of the development of the Moulton bicycle has been due to the deliberate engineering and aesthetic choices of one man. It all began in 1956, when the Suez Crisis resulted in a petrol shortage which drove Alex Moulton back to his bike. Cycling on country lanes in Wiltshire on a high-quality Hetchins bicycle made him wonder how bicycles could be made even better.

At the time, Dr Moulton had been collaborating with the car designer and engineer, Alec Issigonis, on the creation of the Morris Mini. This had involved the insight that the employment of small wheels would permit the whole vehicle to be reduced in scale and improved in efficiency. In fact, the wheels of all vehicles other than the bicycle (and earth-moving machines) had been reduced in diameter as roads had improved. It was not long before Moulton had launched his new small-wheeled bicycle which, along with the miniskirt and the Mini, became an icon of the Swinging Sixties.

The original Moultons included several innovations: small wheels with high-pressure (to lower rolling-resistance) tyres; unisex, single-size frames with no top tubes; frame separability (soon added as a permanent feature of Moulton bikes), and, of course, suspension, front and rear. The result was a performance characterised by quick acceleration, responsive handling, superior stability (which allowed the carrying of large loads over the centre-line of the bicycle), and greater comfort. Variations of the bicycle were made for commuting, touring and even racing.

In 1983, the AM (Advanced Moulton) was launched. This bike, still available today in several variants, incorporated a light, space-frame construction, upgraded suspension and improved geometry. This produced a bike of great stiffness (which means pedalling energy is not wasted in frame-flex) yet great comfort, due to the suspension. One of these cycles holds the world speed record for an upright bicycle (51.29mph, set in 1986).

As it happens, I rode one of these bicycles in 1984 as part of a comparison I was making of commuting bikes for a magazine article, and I liked it so much I bought one. Last year, I upgraded to a newer version of the AM, but I should probably have waited. For this year, Alex Moulton unveiled the crowning achievement of his years of persistent development: the New Series (he is open to suggestions for a better name).

I borrowed one of the New Series bikes for three weeks and ran it over my usual commuting and recreational terrain. I can report that it was superior in nearly every respect to its AM predecessor, a bicycle that, to my mind, is already one of the best on the market. Summed up, the New Series bike is more stable, quicker, better balanced, more aerodynamic (the innovative aircraft-style handlebars put the rider in a position to cut through the wind) and lighter (23lb as opposed to 26lb). The components – brakes, gears, etc – are top-of-the-line Shimano stuff of the sort used in the Tour de France.

But most noticeable is the suspension. Dr Moulton has used variants of his own automotive inventions (Flexitor and Hydrolastic are the registered tradenames) for the front and rear suspensions, respectively. Both devices are highly sensitive and very well damped: they soak up the tiniest vibrations, transmitting only the slightest awareness of them to the rider.

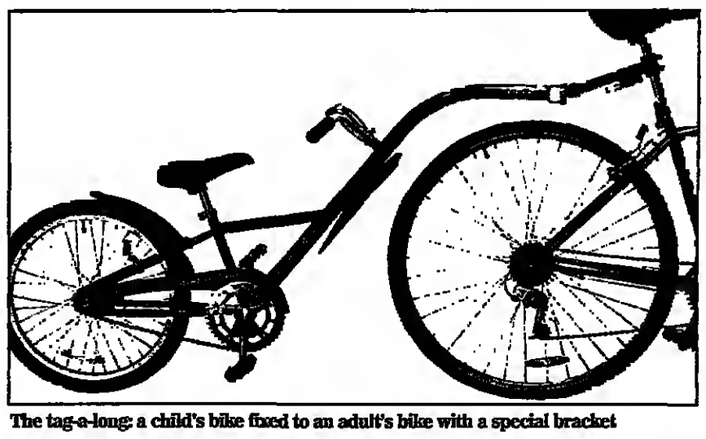
Moultons have always been popular with design professionals. So it is not surprising that Sir Norman Foster, one of the most highly sought-after architects in the world, when asked by the Design Council to nominate what object he would like to take with him into the new Millennium, chose a New Series bicycle. "This is a classic," he said, "a re-invention of the bicycle – light, separable, high-performance – and it looks good." Perhaps Sir Norman saw in the Moulton that combination of artistry and functionalism which characterises great architecture.

Alex Moulton's newest creation is not cheap, but you only need to look at it to appreciate its hand-crafted, jewel-like perfection. And it does not appeal only to the wealthy. There is a waiting-list to buy them which, to its inventor's delight, is comprised mainly of ordinary people who love cycling: "What has pleased me is the retired schoolmaster and his wife coming here, trying the things, grinning, and saying, 'We'll buy two and pass them on to our children'".

The New Series costs from £3,700 to £4,900, from Alex Moulton Bicycles, Holt Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1AH (01225 865895)

Three wheels on your wagon

Now the whole family can fit on one bike. By **Diana Hinds**



The tag-a-long: a child's bike fixed to an adult's bike with a special bracket

"WHEN YOU move to Oxford you'll be able to get one of those family bikes," a friend living in the city once said to me. At the time, the concept meant nothing. The only bikes I'd seen, in inner-city London, were ridden by young professionals in helmets, masks and luminous stripes, dodging dangerously through heavy traffic. You'd certainly never put a baby seat on the back of one of those, let alone a baby.

But more than a year on, I witness the curious phenomenon of the Oxford family bike most mornings as I walk my children to school. All three of us are much entertained by the variety and inventiveness of the contraptions pedalled through the leafy north Oxford streets.

An increasingly common sight is the child whose bike is attached to the back of its parents' bike. With vivid pennants fluttering, for extra visibility, these look like little boats as they tack across the Woodstock Road and down St Margaret's. A child's bike can be fixed to the adult's bike with a special bracket. My local bike shop warns against cheaper brackets, which do not clamp on to the front of the child's bike frame. A better option is a Tag-a-long – ideal for four- to eight-year-olds: a one-wheel affair with handlebars, that can be hitched, in minutes, to the back of an adult bike. The beauty of the Tag-a-long is that it can be extended to accommodate an extra child, or even another adult. Indeed, most riveting of north Oxford's family bike sights is the family of four on one cycle (tandem plus double tag-a-long), looking splendidly Victorian with father at the front, mother behind and children in descending order of size. My own children beg me to buy one but I imagine it might be rather hard to park.

Grown-up tricycles, with the addition of two rear-facing seats at the back (large enough for a seven-year-old), are also experiencing a surge in Oxford. And smaller children can be transported, in pairs, in a variety of trailers. The Freeway Kid-Kab is popular here – a sort of open-topped canvas tent on wheels with a double harness inside. Contrary to appearances, my bike shop assures me these are pretty solid.

Tag-a-long, £159, from Caratti, 01454 201700; Freeway Kid-Kab, £179, from Arthur Neal & Co, 0118-947 0519. Picabac (tricycle with two rear seats), £769, from WR Pashley, 01789 292263. Information and mail order: Walton Street Cycles, Oxford, 01865 311610

FIRST-CLASS DELIVERIES

No 3: DUNTISBOURNE

A HUNDRED years ago, Gloucestershire was a hotbed of the Arts & Crafts movement. A century on, a quintessential Cotswold stone house has become the essence of Duntisbourne, Britain's brand-new, first-ever mail-order catalogue devoted to handmade objects. Marketed as a "new trading concept, working with British craftspeople and artisans in workshops, mills and studios throughout the countryside to bring their handmade and original products direct to you", and run by Venetia Hendry and Peter Duxbury, Duntisbourne is an ambitious venture that deserves to succeed.

The diverse range of items in the catalogue include: ceramic mugs and planters painted with jolly farmyard animals; a large dish boldly decorated with swirling salmon; a hand-forged, steel-pipe fire blower, just the ticket for breathing life into dying embers; expensive but good-looking wooden bowls and platters in ash, elm and sycamore; and a very *World of Interiors*-style ticking bolster with matching cushions.

The catalogue was photographed in and around the 14th-century Cotswold farmhouse. "I wanted it to have a quintessential English country village look; it is more than a catalogue – it is very evocative," says Venetia Hendry.

Hendry and Duxbury applied three criteria when choosing what to stock: first, the product had to be handmade; second, British; and third, not widely available.

Elm platter and ash servers; ticking bolster and cushion

It will be interesting to see how Duntisbourne develops. As yet, the catalogue does not have a clear identity, but no doubt as Hendry and Duxbury discover what sells, it will become more focused.

Best item: Steel bootscrape and pull, £34.95
Worst item: Peach and rose magazine rack, £79.95
Cheapest item: Six antique marble-effect coloured candles, £5.95.

Duntisbourne, 0161-980 5880. Freepost NWW5427, Altrincham WA15 8BR. On the Internet at: www.duntisbourne.comdemaison

AMICIA DE MOUBRAY

In bed with Robert Rauschenberg

The ancient craft of quilt-making has turned to modern art for inspiration. By **Rosemary Hill**

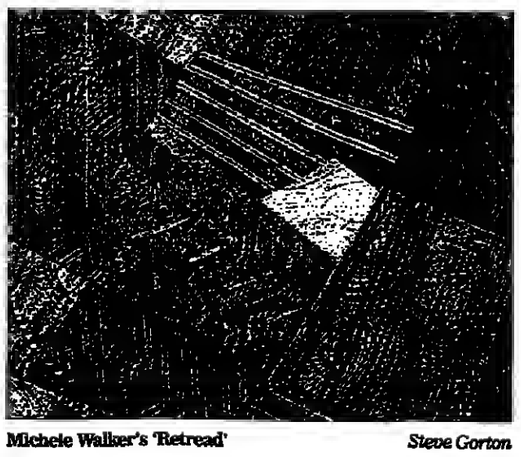
QUILTING SEEMS the coziest of crafts. All those cheerful colours and that hand-stitching warm the heart as well as the bed with the promise of domestic comfort. But that has only ever been part of the story. Since the 18th century quilts have reflected more than the happy side of home life. They were made for marriages but also for mourning. In America, especially, the earliest patterns had didactic religious themes – the Path of Thorns and the Tree of Life. Even political events, such as William Penn's treaty with the Indians, found their way into patchwork.

Despite this, the humble bedspread was unregarded by the world of fine art until the 1950s, when suddenly the geometric blocks of colour in patchwork, especially in the quilts made by the Amish community, looked like Abstract Expressionism *avant la lettre*. Robert Rauschenberg incorporated a piece of patchwork into one of his works and, since then, artists have continued to look from time to time at quilts and quilt-makers have looked, increasingly, at art.

The modern quilt has found, or maybe rediscovered, ways of being more than decorative. It lends itself with ease to themes that have preoccupied post-war art – feminism, the value of home life, the personal as political. And quilts have the advantage of accessibility. They have always been made from domestic flotsam, scraps of old dusters, ancient fabrics and outgrown clothes.

Waste Not Want Not, by Michele Walker, in the exhibition now at the Castle Museum & Art Gallery in Nottingham, might be the quilters' manifesto. As carefully composed as any Victorian piece, it shows a table laid for eight but is patched together from the leavings of the modern home – frozen food packaging, plastic bags and photocopies.

The themes of modern-art quilts reflect the makers' lives, as quilts have always done. Those lives now usually include an art school training (as in the case of Dinah Prentice and Jo Budd, who both trained as painters) and access to more than biblical texts, although the view from the sitting-room window is still full of possibilities.



Michele Walker's 'Retread' *Steve Gorton*

Michele Walker's *Retread* series takes the pattern of its quilting lines from the fields and woods near her home on the South Downs – a nice, snug idea, you might think. But the landscape she maps is eroded, scarred and criss-crossed with roads, and each one is beautifully stitched.

There are advantages to taking up an unregarded art. Quilters can say things about ecology and women's lives without giving it the self-importance of "political art".

Their work is often witty, and sometimes it can disturb. Dinah Prentice has a quote from *Combat Handgun* magazine running round the edge of a quilt where once there might have been a homily. The text is about "soft tissue disruption" – a euphemism for bullet wounds – its setting in quilted silk making a dark little play on words.

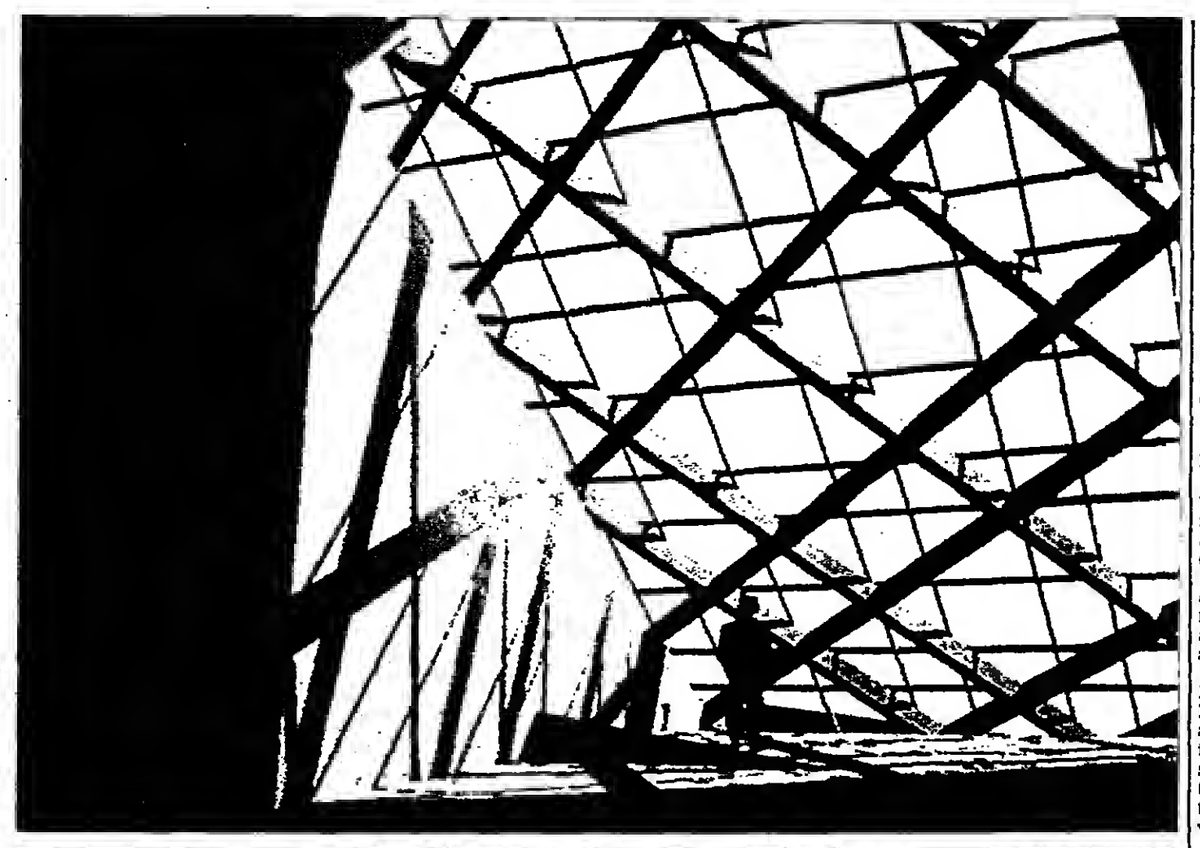
Since the 1970s many craft forms have tried to reinvent themselves as art. If quilters have succeeded where others failed, it is because they have kept faith with traditional craft skills. They are not trying to paint in cloth but are making use of dyes and stitching and the various surfaces of textiles and plastic.

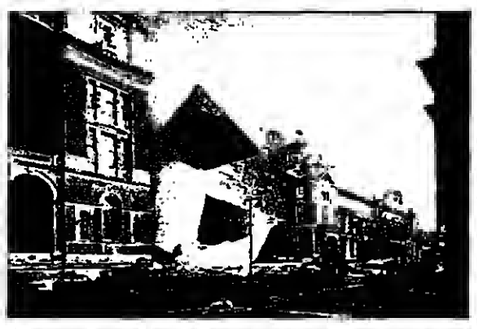
Many, like Pauline Burbidge, have no point to make beyond the pleasure to be had in pattern and colour. She has for years composed sophisticated quilts based on the nine-block grid of traditional designs. Within the squares motifs repeat, some geometric and historic, others flowing and irregular, building up like variations on a musical theme. Her work belongs at a point where art and craft cross. It owed something originally to op art and something to Victorian patchwork patterns such as "tumbling blocks" but now, like any good quilt, it is more than the sum of its parts.

'Take 4: New Perspectives on the British Art Quilt' is at the Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham, 28 November-24 January 1999; Aberdeen Art Gallery 27 February-10 April 1999; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, 15 May-11 July 1999; Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle, 23 July-26 September 1999. For further information, telephone 0115 9153651

A new twist in fashion

The V&A's new Spiral opens in 2004, and inside things will get even more warped. By Nonie Niesewand





Main picture, first view inside the controversial Spiral; left, hump-backed clothing by Comme des Garçons; above, the building that comes apart at the seams; right, deconstructivist fashion by Jean Paul Gaultier *Nigel Young*

If Daniel Libeskind's proposed "Spiral" extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum is the most controversial building in Britain, its contents, when it opens in 2004, will be just as likely to provoke a storm.

Barely a wall away from Queen Victoria's wedding dress, Clive of India's sword and the ornately carved bed of Ware, will be an exhibition featuring body piercing, S & M hoods, tattooing, and strange fashions. "The Spiral", without a curve in it, is a suitably weird outfit to house "The Body", the first exhibition planned by the curators for the new museum extension.

Daniel Libeskind gets the world's most sensitive sites: the Jewish museum in Berlin; the Felix Nussbaum museum on the site of the former SS headquarters at Osnabruch – in memory of a Jewish painter who died at Auschwitz; and the V&A. Even when the buildings are completed, curators battle over the contents. Two years after his Jewish museum in Berlin was completed, curators cannot agree which of three collections should be housed there, so the museum hasn't opened.

With the V&A searching for donors and sponsors for £75m to build the museum extension, the project director, Gwyn Miles, wants to keep "The Body" under wraps. And what wraps! – a Vivienne Westwood bustier, hunchbacked dresses from Rei Kawakubo, padded underwear with built-in bellies by Georgina Godley, Hussein Chalayan tubes that hold arms rigid in surgical splints, and Alexander McQueen's fishtails for mermaids. And that is just the fashion victims.

The exhibition divides into "Chameleon" and "Ergonomics". In the Seventies, ergonomics meant kitchen worktop surfaces at the right height. In the 21st century it will be translated as 18th century chairs with names like "duchesse", "bergere" and "Marquise" that demonstrate the link between decoration, gender and sensuality. Saarinen's hanging basket called "The Womb" will be there. The "Chameleon" will explore changing the body form through transexuality and prosthetics. Aids, with its impact on mens' image will be scruitnised along with ageing. Gwyn Miles admits to being "unsure".

Unlike the body which hasn't changed much since Neanderthal woman straightened up, building forms have changed completely. Daniel Libeskind is the forerunner of this evolution away from four walls supporting a pitched roof. His buildings deconstruct, which isn't another way of saying that they fall apart.

Libeskind's Jewish Museum is profoundly unsettling. Entrances and exits are skewered and floors sometimes intersect windows. The route is sometimes oppressively low, and then soars into airless vaults of grey concrete that he calls the Void. The Final Void, a dead end lit by a sliver of light 22 metres high is a powerful place. In the Garden of Exile and Emigration 49 pillars are planted in the soil, so vertiginously leaning that the museum beyond appears to topple. Even empty, it draws thousands of tourists a week.

Many find The Spiral dangerously futuristic, with its faceted face "fractiled" as the architect calls his randomly evolving computerised patterns for interlocking ceramic tiles on the outside, that is his homage to Arts and Crafts. But the critics do not move him: "If a dog pisses on Notre Dame it doesn't mean there is anything wrong with the cathedral."

There certainly is nothing wrong with his immaculately conceived Spiral. Stretch out the paper cut model of the seven storied building (and Cecil Balmond, the engineer from Ove Arup who planned it with Daniel Libeskind, does it all the time like an origami artist), and the building emerges in one long continuous strip. Concertina it up again, and the walls bite into each other. Schisms and crags burst out in such a way that detractors said it looked like "imploding cardboard boxes". No wonder councillors from Kensington and Chelsea, who unexpectedly gave the go-ahead for the building, expected the floors to tilt. In fact, they are spirit level flat.

Of course the V & A will only use this showcase for contemporary exhibits, not most of their one million objects, many of them as old as 3,500 years. The museum will have to reinvent itself in the slip stream of The Spiral. Gwyn Miles and Daniel Libeskind are visiting museums to see if they can agree on how objects should be exhibited. So far they have only been to Frank Gehry's titanium Guggenheim at Bilbao which Gwyn Miles thought dwarfed the Richard Serra sculpture in the ground floor gallery.

"The epicentre of the Spiral is orientation, education and contemporary design," Gwyn Miles explains. Seven levels – basement storage, ground floor foyer for orientation to the rest of the museum with a computer print out of individual routes, three galleries and an education gallery fireproofed for hands-on work, and roof top glazed cafes with some of the best views over London.

The critics don't bother Libeskind: 'If a dog pisses on Notre Dame, it doesn't mean anything's wrong with the cathedral'

"The walls that lean out," Gwyn Miles tilts her hand backwards like a Thai dancer; "need textiles and costumes – we have a remarkable fashion collection. Or chairs and products. Those that lean in will have video screens of designer makers. Catwalk fashion during London's fashion week, or furniture makers during shows. People like to discover how things are made.

Fewer showcases and more screen projections are planned inside the angular building. "Sure there are corners. What's wrong with corners? We'll use them for interactive displays to let people find out how design works."

There is always a chance that the Spiral may never happen. £75m is a lot of money. "It may be called the 'Something Spiral'," Gwyn Miles admits, as in "Getty" or "Clore".

The Spiral has already been turned down by the Millennium Commissioo for lottery funding because the building was not distinctive enough. Heritage Commission also turned it down but now the V & A hope that the Arts Council will find £15m. They haven't ruled out going back to the Millennium Commission for lottery funding, despite the fact that the project has passed its sell by date for the Millennium.

Culture Secretary Chris Smith, who doubles as Chairman of the Millennium Commission, is clearly impressed by Libeskind. He told *The Independent on Sunday* that he "adores the proposed extension to the V & A, and would like to see it emulated across the country." He has a chance to make his mark on modern architecture by underwriting Libeskind's £30million Imperial War Museum of the North. The museum, designed like broken shards on a bleak site in an industrial park at Trafford outside Manchester, has been turned down for Heritage lottery funding. The doggedly determined Trafford Council have raised mooey from private sponsorship and the EU, hnt still need Treasury go-ahead.

The adjacent Lowry Centre, by Michael Wilford, in Trafford, which opens as a theatre in 2000, will be topped out by Chris Smith on December 3. The Lowry badly needs the Imperial War Museum of the North to be built across the canal; without it, the theatre will be marooned in industrial parks, office blocks and car parks.

It is another sensitive site for Libeskind. When the council launched its plan for a war museum in October 1997, it said it was fitting that its architect should be Jewish, born in Poland at the end of a World War which ravaged both his people and his country. His unorthodox coupling of history and philosophy to create his buildings is "daringly holistic", they said.

"Conflict has been a constant factor of the 20th century as the world fragmented," says Libeskind. So he imagined the globe broken into fragments and took the pieces to form the building – three shards – that represent conflict on land, in the air and on water." From their archives the Imperial War Museum will supply news footage, inventions, from the field telephone to Enigma and the Net, and vignettes with nurses, squaddies, and generals focusing on their experience of conflict and its impact.

What's more, the doors will open in 2002, beating the V & A by two years. Daniel Libeskind's logo on his letterhead, the medieval masons' sign for architecture, of two overlapping circles known as a rhomboid with an equilateral triangle in between, carries a strong message – his buildings do get built and he really cares that they are crafted.

The big issue

London's Mayor will be looking for a new home

EVEN AS the principal girls dress up as Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, for the Christmas pantomime, the Minister for London, Nick Raynsford, should be donning a highwayman'a cocked hat.

His hijacking of the competition to find a suitable building for the future mayor of London has angered architects who feel excluded from the design process.

The Government decided it could not afford to commission a new home for the mayor and his assembly, now that County Hall is an aquarium and hotel.

So the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions approached estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley to find six property developers with suitable locations on either side of the River Thames, from Vauxhall to Docklands, that they were willing to rent out for 15 years.

Nick Raynsford shortlisted Will Alsop's refurbishment of the 1924 listed building in Bloomsbury, Victoria House, and Norman Foster's new building in London Bridge.

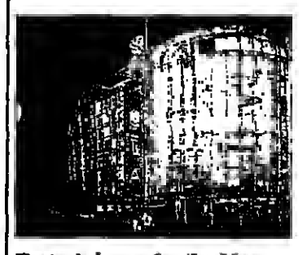
"Absolutely no reflection on the architects, they're among the best we have, but the process of selection is so questionable," said Richard Rogers.

"The GLC was one of the most important city buildings in Europe. London is twice as hig as any other capital and the Government is thinking about shoving the mayor and his assembly in an old building.

"Why should Scotland and Wales have properly run competitions regulated and run through RIBA to find the Parliament and Assembly, and the GLC building be driven by property developers?"

Norman Foster revisited his old hero Buckminster Fuller and his geodesic dome to give his new building a bit of the Reichstag rejigging on top. Will Alsop plans to wrap Victoria House in a translucent skin. Now he has to get these radical refurbishments past English Heritage because the building is listed. Jocelyn Stevens, the opinionated head of English Heritage, memorably called Alsop's cooversion of Hungerford Bridge to make a covered platform for pedestrians "a condom".

NONIE NIESEWAND



Foster's home for the Mayor

Thus spake the little mad man

It may border on insanity, but the League Against Tedium makes a curious kind of intellectual sense. And it's very funny. By **James Rampton**

"ATTENTION, SCUM. You are nothing. Absolutely nothing. You are sub-worms. Behold superiority!" If a man dressed in a red shirt constructed from plastic roses and a bearskin trapper's hat addressed you thus on the street, you'd start walking briskly in the opposite direction, all the while lamenting the breakdown of the care in the community programme. But on stage, this figure is cheered by audiences, and lauded by critics as "brilliant" and "unique".

It is certainly safe to say that you will never before have seen a comedy act like The League Against Tedium. A demented, ranting, megalomaniac über-entertainer, he derives pleasure from the audience's pain. He zaps them with currents of cod-Nietzschean aphorisms and insults. "You scurvy lot," he sneers, "people like you should be thrown back into the sea so you can evolve a little more." All this is accompanied by dissonant images projected onto a huge screen and controlled by his "glove of power".

The League's maxims flow in a stream of consciousness, almost like Surrealist automatic writing. "That which does not kill us makes us stronger – Frosties, *par exemple*... Thought: beware the smile of the waiter – it means he's pissed in your soup... A thousand years ago, I shat by a river. Thus London... We are all brothers. Hence, war... If you were given the choice, what would you say? [Silence]. That is why democracy must end." He is a tinpot dictator who didn't get out enough as a teenager and spent too long with his nose in *Thus Spake Zarathustra*.

On a comedy circuit dominated by cheery blokes doing routines which proclaim "love me, love me", The League seems determined to be despised. He is a refreshing blast of alienation, the very antithesis of ingratiating "have you ever noticed?" comedy. His alter ego, Simon Munnery, the idiosyncratic character comedian who is also responsible for the only socialist left in the country, Alan Parker, Urban Warrior, explains the thinking behind The League. "I just wanted to do something different. The League comes from someone who has done stand-up for a quite a long time and got bored with it. People are fed up with comedians pretending to like them. They get that all the time on TV – 'hello, I love you'. I wanted to create *this bizarre being, a mad, Nietzschean*, camp superman. Put together with the visual technology, I know it's overambitious. But people say they want something different, so I'm providing it. You don't want to seem dull and normal. What's funny about that?"

"I'm pursuing a certain track," he continues, before adding with a nervous laugh. "I just wish someone else would do it as well to reassure me that I'm right. I feel like I'm inventing the wheel very slowly. When the man who invented the umbrella used to walk around Hyde Park with it, for a couple of years people would laugh at him. We now accept umbrellas as normal, but at the time people said, 'what is all this about?'. I feel like that man."

'That which does not kill us makes us stronger: Frosties for example'

The inspiration for The League, who is appearing at the suitably arty venue of London's Institute of Contemporary Art over the next three weeks, came from Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*. "I liked the conciseness of the aphorisms and their similarity to advertising," says Munnery. His favourite is: "The disappointed man speaks. I listen for an echo, but I don't praise." "That's insane and beautiful. Nietzsche is much funnier than people realise."

Hmm, all this talk of Nietzsche sets alarm-bells ringing – could this just be the biggest fraud since the emperor paraded in his new clothes? On stage, The League preempts such criticisms: "What's that you're saying? That I'm wasting your time? What activity am I keeping you from? Are you perhaps building cathedrals on the sly?"

For his part, Munnery contends that people do "get" The League. "What is there to get? It's a bloke talking. It's absurd. He is not deliberately obscure. There's no point in saying something if it's not understood. I think it's accessible to anyone – there are *lots* of good jokes and visuals. Everyone is in on the joke: they think, 'we're being used', and they like that."

All the same, especially in a country as suspicious of intellectuals as Britain, isn't it all a bit, well, brainy? One comedy critic called The League "an arrogant little twerp". Again, Munnery is quick to leap to the defence of his creation: "A couple of years ago, a journalist wrote in *The Independent on Sunday* that 'maybe The League is funny if you know a lot of Nietzsche'. Meanwhile, the *Daily Star* said it was 'a mad, mental laugh'. It's too intellectual for *The Independent on Sunday*, but gut-wrenchingly funny for the *Daily Star*."

But what about all the references to Nietzsche, hardly light reading, even for PhDs in Advanced Philosophy? "They're not references," Munnery argues. "They're just things I've nicked. Stealing from the rich to give to the poor is a fine old English tradition."

Wiry, with bottle-bottom specs, the 31-year-old Munnery makes for an intriguing interview. A graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge, he is manifestly bright. But he enjoys subverting the interview set-up by toying with notions of meaning and tone. Often it is hard to tell where Munnery ends and The League begins. As an unreadable blend of the two, he portentously declares that The League is "a parody of Man. He sends up arrogance by showing it in all its grandeur. It takes arrogance just to get out of bed in the morning. That's violence against the day."

Hard to dislodge once he has mounted his platform, he carries on: "We're all like The League. He's someone with a high opinion of himself, and psychological tests confirm that people have a higher opinion of themselves than other people do. People overestimate the amount of control they have and what others think of them. Depressed people are sane – the rest of the world is madly happy. Good luck to it, but it's doomed."

Again on the border between himself and his creation, Munnery reveals that The League's ultimate aim is to play Wembley Stadium. "Supporting the Rolling Stones?" I venture. "No, they can support me. The League is the only act that could play Wembley Stadium."

Munnery is well-versed in this faux-tyrannical behaviour. At the beginning of his Edinburgh show, *Club Zarathustra*, last year, The League disinfected the audience with spray-guns before making them all don dunce's caps. "Those caught without caps were asked to stand at the front and teach," Munnery recalls. "Why not? We're surrounded by media flatterers who tell us that we know something. The fact is that we know nothing, and we flatter ourselves by the very act of speaking. Why do men speak? Why do dogs bark? Are they worshipping the moon? Ramble, ramble".

This is hardly the sort of conversation that normally fills the air of London restaurants. But it is of a piece with a performer who lives up to the old cliché of daring to be different. You may not like The League Against Tedium's show; you may not even understand it. But you cannot say it's derivative, because nobody, but nobody, has a mind quite like Simon Munnery's.

The League Against Tedium appears at the ICA, The Mall, London, SW1 (0171-930 3647) on 2, 9, 16 December

Simon Munnery: 'I feel like I'm inventing the wheel very slowly' *Andrew Parsons*

Prance of the seven veils

THEATRE
SALOME
RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
LONDON

OSCAR WILDE'S *Salome* drives directors to extremes. Responding to the play's hypnotic, incantatory rhythms and exorbitant imagery, Steven Berkoff's 1988 production seemed to be taking place on the ocean floor as the characters, transformed into decadent Twenties socialites, waded and drawled their way through the perverse proceedings. Lindsay Kemp, seizing on its anti-naturalism, converted the work into a transvestite all-male ballet where the dance of the seven veils, in exposing the bald, naked man under the heroine's elaborate costume and wig, implied that Salome was more idea than woman.

Now, in the first venture of a scheme to take the Gate Theatre's work into larger spaces and, by co-producing, earn enough money at last to pay the actors, Mick Gordon offers an arrestingly stark vision of the play, mostly in modern dress.

Performed in a harsh, striped setting, it is a production that operates by suggestive paradox. Laying stress on his tantalising unattainability, John the Baptist's dank cistern of a prison is evoked by a tall set of stepladders on which Tristan Sturrock's wild-eyed prophet perches and releases invisible drops of water from his fingers which fall with a heightened splashing sound. This sets up a rhythmic expectation that enables the moment of his murder to be conveyed by nothing more sensational than the simple intensifying of our awareness of silence when he stops.

Brilliantly communicated, too, is the moment where Emily Woof's Salome receives the prophet's head. While she is speaking, Sturrock dismounts from the ladder, walks towards her and, when she grips him by the chin, suddenly twists his body and lets it go limp so that she has to support the whole weight of it by the head. In the stage picture this creates, there is a perverse and moving hint of a *pietà* – she has killed the things she genuinely, if obsessively loved, as Wilde said each man is fated to do.

There is an uneven match, though, at the centre of the production. Greg Hicks gives a performance of hilariously rattled dynamism as the gross, equivocating Herod. In bare feet and a tatty, crushed-velvet frock coat, he hurtles round like some seedy showman desperate to disguise his suspicion that the acts have taken another booking.

Emily Woof and Greg Hicks *Geraint Lewis*

The speech in which he offers Salome a vast array of kinky jewels if she will give up her request for the Baptist's head, is delivered here with the pleading palms and inflections of a comically distraught Jewish haggler.

"I have a crystal into which it is not lawful for a woman to look," he informs her; his face straining with the effort of invention, "nor may young men behold it till they have been beaten with rods". Some stone.

In her vest, white jeans, sneakers and piled-up hair, Emily Woof makes a sexy and highly contemporary Salome, but her weedy voice is too unmusical and her body language too demonic to do justice to the part or to explain why Herod finds her so compelling.

The seven veils dance is an embarrassingly inept display of auto-erotic rubbings and leapings into the air. There was once a book called *Not in the Fridge, Salome*. Here you want to shout, "Not on the dance floor, darling".

PAUL TAYLOR

To 13 Dec (0181-237 1111)

Aussie eyes are smiling

COMEDY
JIMEOIN
COCHRANE THEATRE
LONDON

TWO DREAD words hang over Aussie comedy: "Paul" and "Hogan". So I am relieved to report that Jimeoin, an Irish-born stand-up who is huge in Australia, couldn't be further removed from the Fosters-swilling larrikin. The big difference being that Jimeoin makes people laugh.

On a comedy circuit populated with more surrealists than Twenties Paris, Jimeoin is very much a throwback to the "have you ever noticed?" school of humour. The horror of treading in dogs' mess and the incomprehensibility of video-instruction manuals have a "been there, heard that" feel about it. And how often have we witnessed routines about trying not to make a noise when you take a late-night leak?

Where Jimeoin scores highly, though, is in unexpectedly transporting familiar subject matter on to the wilder shores of unpredictability. For instance, an apparently unsurprising section about changing light-bulbs metamorphoses without warning into something more imaginative when the comedian begins to speculate about why bulbs alert you when they are just about to run out. "It's so they can have their last dying words – 'Tell the other bulbs I loved them.'"

Appealingly, he is also drawn to the manifestly irrelevant. The show kicks off with Jimeoin admitting: "I don't have a start, other than: you always buy far too many mushrooms." A propos of nothing, he reveals that his microphone-stand is related to the Bunsen burner: "A lot of you are just surprised that you have heard that word again, aren't you? Nobody mentions it – it just doesn't come up in the real world, does it?"

It's all deliberately frivolous stuff. In the closest he comes to a political routine, Jimeoin marvels at the unfortunate politician who stood up on the first day of the new Northern Irish Assembly, and said: "I'd like to congratulate Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games. We've just won a gold medal in the shooting."

He ends with a clever spoof on the vanity of rock stars, crooning with over-the-top emotion: "Don't drive a tractor when you're drinking Lemsip – it tells you that on the box."

I know it's only a stand-up show, but I like it.

JAMES RAMPTON

Jimeoin plays the Arts Theatre, Belfast (01232 316900) tonight and Saturday

MUSIC

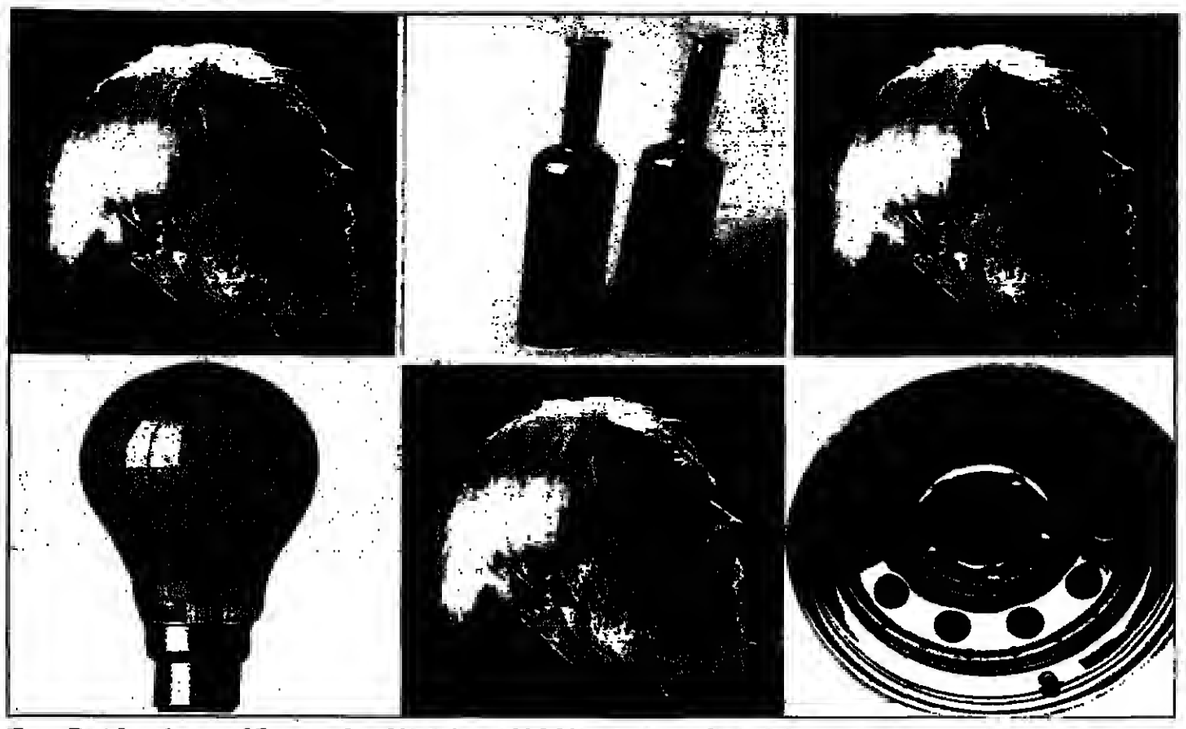
First, find your hub cap

Harry Partch wrote music using a notation system that could only be played on his home-made instruments. Obscure? Yes. Eccentric? Maybe. But his work is tender, tactile. And never abstract. By Phil Johnson

Tonight at the Barbican in London, the music of the Californian composer, Harry Partch, will be performed for the first time in the UK on Partch's original instruments, played by the ensemble Newband, led by Dean Drummond. It's part of a whole "Partch-day", which also includes screenings of three films about him, a talk by his biographer, Bob Gilmore, and a post-concert Q&A with Dean Drummond which promises an opportunity to view the instruments at close hand. For Partch devotees – of whom there are a surprising number – the Barbican day is a truly momentous event. For everyone else, it's yet more evidence of the enduring personality cult of a man who, although he died in 1974, still seems more enigma than reality.

In recent years, Partch's works have acquired a talismanic significance for a whole range of artists, from Tom Waits to the Kronos Quartet. His instruments were even enrolled for the producer Hal Wilner's tribute album to Charles Mingus, *Weird Nightmare*, although it's not very clear why. Partch's lifelong concern with recondite tuning systems and his rejection of the post-Renaissance "well-tempered" 12-tone scale in favour of a return to "just" intonation has also been taken up by microtonalists, musical hobhyists and instrument-makers everywhere. The British Harry Partch Society Newsletter – *Little Notes Between the Keys* – is so full of weird and wonderful Partch arcana that it seems almost impenetrable. So why's everyone so wild about Harry?

One reason has to be the beauty of the instruments themselves, which appear to be as close to sculpture as they are to sound. From photographs, the instruments look like exhibits from an ethnographic museum such as the Pitt-Rivers in Oxford. There are marimbas made from bamboo, Sitka-spruce and Californian redwood, and even one featuring Mazda lightbulbs. There's the Gourd Tree, which looks like a *Waiting For Godot* stage-set, and uses Chinese temple bells attached to a eucalyptus bough; and the Cloud-Chamber Bowls – Pyrex chemical solution jars cut in half and suspended on a rack. The Kitharas are like ancient lyres, while the Harmonic Canons look like zithers. Partch also made instruments out of hub caps and bottles.



Harry Partch and some of the everyday objects from which his unique soundscapes are made

He made them all himself, with a devotion to DIY that is positively heroic, given that he rarely had a settled home or any money. Once the instruments were made, they then had to be housed and maintained, meaning that Partch came to depend on the niggardly support of various educational institutions, which he hated with a vengeance. From Bob Gilmore's fascinating biography, you get the feeling that Partch at least partly willed his own alienation, which was considerable. He craved acceptance, but his music – written according to his own system of notation – could only be performed on the instruments that he made, and by players that he first had to teach. There seems an overwhelming sadness to Partch's life too, which was eccentric, even by the standards of contemporary American composers such as John Cage, who he hated.

"He was not eccentric, let's get that straight," says Betty Freeman, the photographer and Californian patron of the arts who supported Partch from the moment she first met him, until his death. "He'd just given away his car and so I offered to drive him home. I did this every day and then I just found myself doing what he needed for the next 10 years. He moved perhaps 30 times in that period, with all of his instruments. He needed access to a hardware store, and also to a bar or liquor store, because he liked to drink, but he was unhappy wherever he was. Although he hated institutions, he was always tied to them."

With a heroic devotion to DIY, he made instruments out of hub caps and light bulbs

Freeman covered the losses of Partch performances, and supported him with an annuity (as she did with Cage). She also helped set up the Harry Partch Foundation, although Partch frustrated its aims by leaving his estate to his assistant, Danlee Mitchell. Mitchell later passed the keeping of the Partch instruments over to Dean Drummond. As a result, Partch's work is now spread between a number of different archives.

Bob Gilmore's biography offers a wealth of detail about Partch's unusual life. He was born in Oakland, California, in 1901, to parents who had served as missionaries in China. His mother sang Chinese songs and lullabies to him; later, Partch would be entranced by the operas in San Francisco's Chinatown, and some of his first compositions were settings of poems by Li Po. Growing up in Arizona and New Mexico, in a landscape as unlike Europe as it was possible to get in America, Partch began playing the mandolin and the pump organ, and although he did a variety of courses in music, he remained essentially self-taught and never completed a degree (something which made his appointments at universities rather provisional).

He supported himself as a proofreader for newspapers while continuing his researches into musical theory. These first took shape in 1923 when he read Hermann Helmholtz's book, *On the Sensations of Sound*. This led him to question "whether there was any logical reason for twelve tones in an octave", and to the beginning of his life-long work in "just intonation", the dominant tuning system from the ancient Greeks to the Renaissance. After researches in the British Museum, meetings with WB Yeats and many, many, drafts, Partch's theories were finally published in 1949 as *Genesis of a Music*.

For a layman, Partch's theory is obscure, eccentric even, but the music is anything but abstract. His big concept was "the corporeal", and both the instruments, and the works he wrote for them, are full of a sense of the body's tactility. Partch's life was also haunted by a sense of physical incompleteness: he confessed to being traumatised by his circumcision at the age of eight, which his mother organised when his father was away. He believed that an attack of mumps had left him sterile, although a former lover said Partch had "no balls at all".

As a homosexual who always remained reticent about admitting his orientation, Partch wrote feelingly about the brisk approach to sexuality he discovered in his time as a hobo in the Thirties. In *The Dreamer That Remains*, the film made about his life just before he died (and due to be screened at the Barbican cinema today), Partch came close to making what his friend and fellow composer Lou Harrison called: "a fairly public, and if you will, political 'coming out'." Touchingly, Partch also fell in love with the film's director, Stephen Pouliot, although this was unrequited and it had the effect of complicating an already difficult undertaking still further. The trouble with Harry, it seems, is that his love didn't really have anywhere to go, except perhaps, into his exquisitely tender and tactile music.

Harry Partch's Original Invented Instruments, performed by Newband, is at the Barbican tonight. 0171-6388 891. 'Harry Partch: a Biography', by Bob Gilmore, is published by the Yale University Press

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Roger Daltrey, the former Who star, is appearing as Scrooge in a production of 'A Christmas Carol' at New York's Theater at Madison Square Garden. A single, 'God Bless Us Everyone' with The Harlem Boys Choir is released soon.

Daltrey Rides Again

His eyes still blaze, a
cornflower blue
On *Who Sell Out*, the
cover.
And ponder on what
stardom means
Sat in a bath of cold baked
beans

And lurking in the
wreckage then
Of Townshend's great
obsession
The drums smashed up,
the p.a. dead
He swung his mike at
Moonie's head

The stubborn jaw and
hard-man glare
Would underpin the
toughness
From early adenoidal Mod
To buckskin, golden-
permed young god

He swaggered back with
rock and roll
From Goldhawk Road to
Narnia
Stuttering "My Generation"
In the sludge of Woodstock
Nation

While running mates from
other bands
Dropped back, collected
pensions
The centaur-chested Acton
yob
Got quietly on and did his
job

The acting roles and fish
farms came
But 31 years later.
You wonder if he'd fret
about
A headline reading: *Who
Sell Trout.*

The sound of Hank Marvin, plunging into deep space

REVIEW

GODSPEED YOU BLACK EMPEROR!
THE GARAGE, LONDON N1

THE GARAGE'S tiny stage is awash with Canadians, nine of them to be precise – some seated at glockenspiels, some wielding cellos, guitars and violins, but all trading under the intriguing name Godspeed You Black Emperor!

The only things their audience know about them are that they come from Montreal and that their debut album, entitled (with the flagrant disregard for commercial considerations that seems to characterise all the endeavours of this enigmatic collective) *fuoo* (with space symbols either side of the "a", and a double helix for the "oo") is one of the year's most enthralling curiosities.

Inspired by the same tradition of Canadian radio drama which used to get Glenn Gould all hot under the collar, Godspeed You Black Emperor! have fashioned a gripping portfolio of melancholy soundscapes. Despite a prevailing mood on the doomy side of mordant (the album opens with a man who might be Ingmar Bergman's depressive uncle intoning the cheering words "The car is on fire and there is no driver at the wheel... The sewers are all muddy with a thousand lonely suicides") the album seems to bring joy to the ears of all who hear it. There is something strangely uplifting about the completeness of its desolation.

They look a jolly enough bunch in person, too, in their natty North American knitwear, and when they start to play together, the vibrancy and dynamism of their interaction more than outweighs the sombre nature of their underlying worldview. Far from the earnest instrumental endeavour that might be imagined, a Godspeed You Black Emperor! live show turns out to be a magical, unnerving, wild and, at times, downright scary affair.

Some standard-issue black-and-white film back projections of ballerinas and people standing on top of oil derricks are an unnecessary distraction from the music, which already conjures up a heady rush of visual images: the way a glass dish that wasn't heatproof would throb just before it exploded if it were mistakenly placed in a really high oven; or the last cartwheel of a tumbleweed before it is impaled on a particularly intractable cactus.

The walls of The Garage seem to stretch and then contract as the band performs, as though their breathing was pulling all the air out of it. String slashes accelerate alarmingly then flatten to a calming plateau. Rhythms sidle from pulse to flurry and back again, and then the drummer relieves the gathering tension with a hurst of maniacal laughter.

If Hank Marvin of The Shadows was a cosmonaut and his lifeline broke while effecting a small external repair, this is what the music playing in his head as he plunged into the eternal abyss might sound like.

BEN THOMPSON

ANDY GILL

An array of gunfire, planes and hardware make Ice Cube's new album sound more like the soundtrack to 'Jane's Fighting Machines'

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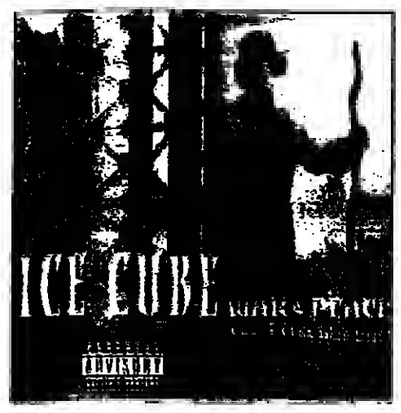
THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 27 November 1998

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



ICE CUBE
War & Peace Vol 1 (The War Disc)
Priority/Virgin

THOUGH HIS labours have recently been more dedicated towards cementing his position as a showbiz player (through his various film roles and his début as writer/director with *The Players Club*, Ice Cube has still found time to knock together the kind of rap album that makes most of his peers sound more than a little sad and small-minded. And if the 18 tracks on *The War Disc* don't cover enough ground as it is, there's the prospect of *The Peace Disc* to follow in January.

Ice Cube has always viewed the world in dualistic, starkly black-and-white terms – 1991's bleak *Death Certificate* featured "Death" and "Life" sides, roughly reflecting the fears and hopes, respectively, of black American males in the Nineties – though his grasp of the larger picture has rarely been more acute than here. Along with a certain maturity, Cube's movie career has also given him access to a better class of sound effects, an impressive array of gunfire, planes, hardware and helicopters that makes the album sound more like the soundtrack to *Jane's Fighting Machines* than hip hop.

But what sets Cube apart from the average run of rappers are his rap routines, which take the gangsta worldview that step further: where any neighbourhood hood with a gun and a gang allegiance can boast and threaten with a modicum of style, few would attempt to relate the harrowing story of a disabled gangsta, as he does here on "Ghetto Vet", a narrative every bit as gripping as an episode of *NYPD Blue*. Behind the visceral surface of these street dramas lies a sharp political intelligence with few illusions about the true nature of power, as demonstrated in Cube's riff on American penal policy, "3 Strikes You In", and particularly in the angry "Penitentiary", where he asks: "can the Crips and Bloods be so rotten, when the Trilateral Commission is plottin'?"

With such a cynical perspective, Cube's smart enough to realise his own position: a Dr Frankenstein responsible for the creation of gangsta rap, now able to pursue more diverse outlets for his creativity. As he acknowledges: he's "America's Most Hated, liberated by this shit I created".

VARIOUS ARTISTS
NWA Straight Outta Compton 10th Anniversary Tribute (Priority/Virgin)

IS IT really 10 years since *Straight Outta Compton* sent ripples of outrage across the (white) Western world? My, doesn't time fly when you're having fun! As it happens, if proof were ever required of Ice Cube's pre-eminence in his field, one need look no further than this tribute album, pairing modern rappers with tracks from NWA's milestone début (for which Cube provided much of the lyrical venom).

It's a simple matter of character, which, for all the hot air and attitude pumped into the genre, is a commodity in short supply in modern hip hop. It's one thing to have Snoop Dogg bringing his offhand menace to "Gangsta Gangsta", and quite another entirely to have to sit through lifeless re-treads of the album's duller tracks by such wannabes as Boo Kapone, Mr Mike and Big Punisher.

"Fuck Tha Police", in particular, offers an object lesson in style: this version by Bone Thugs N Harmony just sounds limp-wristed and petulant alongside the original, Krayzie Bone and his chums lacking the sheer vituperation which may be Ice Cube's greatest gift to hip hop.

MARTIN CARTHY
Signs Of Life
(Topic)

THEN AGAIN, the dangers your average gangsta faces on the streets of Compton pale in comparison to the tribulations encountered in Martin Carthy's *Signs Of Life*. Such suffering is here: a bellicose lord perishes at sea; a criminal faces deportation; trapped coal-miners await their subterranean doom; and a pleasant day's hunting is ruined by incest, bestiality and suicide. It's all part of the everyday world of traditional folk, a place where the authorities abuse their power, fair maidens get the short end of the stick, and tragedy is rarely very far away. So, not that dissimilar to Compton after all.

For this first solo outing in donkey's years, Carthy – that's Martin Carthy MBE now, of course – has chosen songs which were landmarks in his life, allowing him to set trad-folk standards such as "Sir Patrick Spens" and "Prince Heathen" alongside a few surprising pop choices, such as a beautifully bleak, blues reading of "Heartbreak Hotel". It's tremendous stuff, especially a haunting version of The Bee Gees' "New York Mining Disaster 1941", whose dolorous chord structure adapts perfectly to the trad-folk style.

FEAR OF POP
Volume 1
(Epic)

FEAR OF POP is Ben Folds' other project, and it is unenticingly described as "an album of instrumental and spoken word music", on which Folds alone overdubs most of the instrumental parts, and dear William Shatner gets to slice himself thickly over one track.

It's a second cousin of sorts to the recent sample-collage album by Hal Willner, and to Barry Adamson's imaginary-movie soundtracks – there's a similar sense of clever-dick pastiche. Unfortunately for Folds, he crucially lacks both the passion of Adamson and the wit of Willner.

You're never in any doubt about his dilettantism here, as Folds ricochets from one style to another in a cartoonish, bull-in-a-china-shop manner, the effect of which is to drag everything down to the level of incidental music.

Ultimately, Folds comes across as a sad American version of Harry Enfield's office clown, Colin Hunt, his repertoire of musical feints and jokes failing to disguise his essential humourlessness. At times, the laboured zaniness gets to be quite unbearable: one comes to yearn for a bar or two of good, honest, irony-free music.

FRUITLOOP
To Be Or Not To Be Bop A Lula
(Cup Of Tea)

THE BRISTOL label Cup Of Tea's reputation for cutting-edge breakbeat grooves remains assured with this début offering from Fruitloop, a duo comprising Tara Strong and Daniel Goddard.

Like most contemporary computer grooves, Fruitloop's are eclectic, but they are subtly so, working their magic without ever pushing too heavily in one particular direction. Instead, the bulk of these 10 tracks has an amorphous, lightweight texture, which alters slowly as the shifting shuffle-rhythms unfold: it's as if they are floating around, but in a purpurposive manner.

Former Boy George cohort, MC Kinky, turns up in the guise of feisty ragga rapper Cantankerous for "Jumpin" and "Outta Control", though despite the abundant attitude, there's ultimately no greater weight to the talk of rockin' and a-movin', bomba-chat and crack-smoking than there is to the light skanking grooves themselves.

The best cuts are left to the end, where the spooky depths of "Ran And Tried It" and the closing remix of Krysko's "Serenity" demonstrate an acute grasp of the delicate balance between propulsion and atmosphere.

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY LUTRICIA MCNEAL

First Record: Tina Turner *Proud Mary*
She is a legend. The real girl power. She has been very influential to me. It's a great album: she does a little bit of rock, with the whole Motown soul flowing through. "Proud Mary" is my favourite; it's about a woman working hard, making it in the world – it's about being proud, going for it when people say it's a man's world. Women are in high positions now, the sisters are really doing it for themselves.

Last Record: Celine Dion, Gloria Estefan, Shania Twain, Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey, *Divas Live*
This is a soul-based compilation of old and new songs. It's great when powerful women with big voices come together. I consider myself a diva and if I got the opportunity, I would be on stage with All Saints and the Spice Girls. I like all the artists, but I admire Aretha Franklin the most. In the midst of "Chain of Fools", she says "excuse me for a minute", and you feel her power before she lets it rip. I get chilled when I hear her singing.

Lutricia McNeal's 'The Greatest Love You'll Never Know/A Child Is Born' is released 7 Dec (Wildstar)

Like nothing you've ever heard before

Phil Johnson celebrates the remastering of Miles Davis's *Bitches Brew*

WHEN THE double album, *Bitches Brew*, was originally released in 1970, it came as an electric shock to many of Miles Davis' critics and fans, despite the superficially similar sound of his previous album, *In A Silent Way*. Nearly three decades later, and now higged up into four CDs through the addition of nine previously unreleased tracks from the same sessions, the shock-value of *Bitches Brew* has hardly abated at all.

It's shockingly good for a start, and given the superb quality of the newly remastered recordings, it actually sounds better than it could possibly have done before. But that isn't the half of it. Incredibly, the music still carries its original punch (and punching was what the boxing-mad Miles was into at the time), in a way that makes it seem, if anything, even more uncompromisingly modern. Davis's darkling trumpet feints and parries around the other instruments with a grace and power that is quite transfixing.

Part of the glory of *Bitches Brew* lies in the fact that it really does come from a golden age of musical invention, where new instruments and technology (the Fender Rhodes piano, the Echoplex) meshed with a new form (incipient jazz-fusion), and new groupings of musicians, and at a time when Miles himself was on a roll. At the end of a decade of continual experimentation, Miles was leaner and fitter than he had been for years, and his ear was increasingly attuned to the sound of rock and R&B.

Although there has always been a controversy about how far Clive Davis (the boss of CBS at the time) was responsible for pushing Miles in a more "commercial", rock-influenced direction, it seems that Miles didn't need much pushing, and the thought that *Bitches Brew* could ever be considered a primarily "commercial" undertaking now seems quite absurd. The album did sell well and it helped propel Miles to stadium-status as a live act, but even before it was released, he had made the cover of *Rolling Stone* and was attracting a whole new constituency of fans. According to the drummer, Tony Williams (who left the band just before the sessions were recorded), Miles's aim was both to go further out, and to get more basic, at the same time. Perhaps most importantly, *Bitches Brew* made him truly hip again, and hipness was what Miles liked best of all. If John Coltrane's parallel journey was mainly an inward one, Miles favoured the flash and filigree of public display.

The far-out elements on the album derive partly from the influence of Joe Zawinul. Although Zawinul also left the group at this time, he played on some of the sessions and five of his compositions were used, while Miles continually quotes from other tunes, such as *In a Silent Way*. The more "basic", R&B elements derive partly from the unusual line-ups of the ensemble, with two drummers, two keyboards and two bassists, plus guitar and percussion, often used for the same track, creating a thick, funky soup of sound. Adding occasional sitars and tabla drums to the mix, along with Bennie Maupin's burbling bass clarinet (a master-stroke of creative casting), helps provide the mystery factor that makes *Bitches Brew* quite unlike anything else you've ever heard.

As to the luxurious box-set itself, and the previously unreleased tunes, you can quibble about whether the original double album really justifies such reverent treatment, but if more is being offered, you might as well take it (and the improved sound quality is enough on its own to make the set essential). The additional tracks are sometimes rather meandering grooves, but so are some of the originals. You also get the bonus of hearing Miles's inimitable vocal growl as he talks to producer Teo Macero through the studio intercom.

Bitches Brew is one hell of a record, then and now.

Miles Davis: 'Bitches Brew' (Sony, 4CD Box Set)

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

1. **Ladies and Gentlemen** – George Michael
2. **I've Been Expecting You** – Robbie Williams
3. **Talk on Corners** – Corrs
4. **Voice of an Angel** – Charlotte Church
5. **Hits** – Phil Collins
6. **The Best Of** – M People
7. **One Night Only** – Bee Gees
8. **Step One** – Steps
9. **The Best Of** – U2
10. **No 1s** – Mariah Carey

Hooked on modernists

The Arditti String Quartet is fêted abroad for its difficult repertoire. So why not here? By **Rob Cowan**

The Arditti Quartet has pioneered the playing of modern chamber music over 25 years, despite the howls

Few errors of omission are as serious, or as senseless, as sidestepping the treasures on your own doorstep. But in the case of a valuable creative institution like the London-based Arditti String Quartet, there can be no excuses for blinkered vision. Now, on the eve of their 25th anniversary, Britain's most innovative small chamber group deserves more in the way of national recognition. Not that their leader, Irvine Arditti, is in the least bit worried. "Let us say that we never go anywhere we're not wanted," he tells me, donning a quizzical smile. "It's fairly difficult for a group like ours because we're constantly on the move and constantly in demand."

When I spoke to Arditti a month or so ago, his quartet was fresh from performing at the Donaueschingen Festival in southern Germany. "Hindemith and Stravinsky had first performances there," he says, "though it's rare for a chamber ensemble to be invited. We came home via Frankfurt, where there was a Boulez Festival taking place. Boulez was conducting the Vienna Philharmonic and his own Ensemble InterContemporain, and we gave one of two chamber concerts." Then there's Rouen, Strasbourg, Vienna. Europe knows the Ardittis as a household name; we hardly know them at all.

The idea for a new music quartet first occurred to Arditti in 1974 when he and violist Levine Andrade were studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Even before then, 12-year-old Irvine was fascinated by the radical creations of Stockhausen, Nono, Boulez, Ligeti and Xenakis. "The first time I left England – I was about 15 years old, I think – was to go to the Darmstadt International Centre for Contemporary Music," he recalls. "I met Stockhausen and was very taken with the sort of things that he was doing then. I also met Ligeti. Then I remember dragging my mother down to Oxford because Xenakis and Messiaen were there." This was the period when Pierre Boulez led the BBC Symphony Orchestra, when our musical life still had balls; a time before audience ratings dictated artistic policy. "These were my influences and so I resolved to form a group that would play this music and take it seriously – though I never dreamed things would turn out as they have!"

> *Too many modern composers don't know how to write for a string quartet*

Much of the quartet's history has seen Irvine Arditti as leader and Rohan de Saram as cellist, with various personnel changes in between the current line-up includes Graeme Jennings on second violin and Dov Scheindlin on viola). "As Rohan and I grow older, we find younger people who are much quicker, even better than those we found 25 years ago."

The Arditti's repertoire stretches back to the century's auspicious musical beginnings, from Bartok, Janacek, Schoenberg, Zemlinsky, Roslavets, Vyschnegradsky, to today's boldest and youngest. Most of the music they play is strong meat, meaning unselfconscious and uncompromisingly original, from the sparse textures of Morton Feldman to the knotted intricacies of Brian Ferneyhough.

The idea is to encourage new repertoire, take pieces from one country and play them in another. "For example, we were one of the first to play Wolfgang Rihm in England," Arditti reminds me. "But nowadays, music is changing. People are doing their own thing much more; each young composer arrives with a different voice – it's constantly refreshing. Fifteen years ago, people used to ask us, 'Why do you only play new music?' Now the question hardly ever arises." Numerous composers have written music especially for the quartet, not least the veteran "modern" American Elliott Carter, whose new Piano Quintet is being played by Ursula Oppens and the Ardittis at both the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and the Barbican.

The Arditti "experience" (my term, not Irvine's) has been well documented on the valuable but still little-known Auvidis Montaigne "Arditti String Quartet Edition", which now runs to some 32 volumes. Montaigne's founder was the late Pierre Lebaillif, an ardent new music enthusiast who happened to attend one of the Arditti's concerts at the Avignon Festival. "He was astounded, even dismayed that our repertoire was not fully recorded and set about preparing a series especially for us, to have things organised under a single label. That series is still going strong." The latest Volume, No 32 (though it's not named as such on the CD box) is an all-Carter programme that includes the 1994-5 Fifth String Quartet.

Modern-minded they may be, innovative too – and certainly adventurous. But trendy they most definitely are not. The Ardittis' leading priority is to encourage people to write well for the medium, support quality music and enter into the closest possible artistic relationship with those composers who they choose to champion (trusted "talent scouts" constantly bring new names to their attention). They will have no truck with an amiable "middle road", not because they disapprove of it, but because they have neither the time nor the inclination to deviate from their chosen route.

Does Arditti then consider that his fashionable drive towards more accessible fare is, in a sense, a digression away from more significant – albeit sometimes less immediately appealing – repertory choices? "It's only a digression if you consider it a digression," he says candidly. "Our objective and aim is to help continue the tradition of string quartet writing from the latter part of the 19th-century and the earlier part of this century, coming from Schubert and late Beethoven quartets, through Bartok and the Second Viennese School to the present time.

"It's true that we don't actually play all those composers, but that is our thinking: to try and encourage people who, above all, know and understand the medium. Other quartets might veer in a different direction, toy with so-called "crossovers", maybe even jazz. But for me, too many of these composers don't know how to write for a string quartet. The results tend to be shabby, and nothing whatever to do with genuine string quartet music."

But what about arrangements, even if only for use as encores? Not a hope. "I except that making arrangements of lighter styles of music may be necessary to achieve a bigger audience." Arditti concedes, "but I prefer to encourage the people who want to come and listen to what we do. I'm not interested in bad arrangements: I'd rather listen to, say, Jimi Hendrix unadulterated. But if that's the objective for other groups then... fine."

The Arditti Quartet and Ursula Oppens play Elliott Carter's Piano Quintet at 7.30pm tonight at the Huddersfield Festival (01484 430528) and at 7.30pm tomorrow night at the Barbican Hall (0171-638 8891)

As sung regularly on the Clapham omnibus

ON THE AIR
ROBERT MAYCOCK

LESLEY GARRETT *Tonight*, said Saturday's BBC2 billing, and it was Lesley Garrett tomorrow as well. Her *South Bank Show* profile (ITV, Sunday) arrived as the soprano with the mission to popularise opera faced a conundrum. She commands her biggest audiences ever, with recitals from Harrogate to Barbados, CDs that sell 100,000 copies, and now a weekly mid-evening series. And she isn't giving them opera at all.

She wants to get them into the theatres to see the real thing, she told Melvyn Bragg. She gets angry when people answer her by saying "it's not for us". She wants them to know opera *was* meant for them, an art with its roots in the mass audiences of the 19th century and imbued with e true popular touch.

Well, some of it: try telling that to Wagner or Berlioz. Never mind that it was all hijacked in the meantime by a set of people with vested interests in keeping the *hoi polloi* out. Who exactly is it that angers Garrett? The plutocrats for making opera exclusive, or the concert audiences for apparently being too stupid to come and see her on stage? This she did not say.

The Garrett phenomenon is as old as the hills. Opera or no opera, the public has always loved a bit of nononsense, old-fashioned belting. Look at the longevity of *Friday Night is Music Night*, still going strong on Radio 2. English stage sopranos with a big following and a bigger personality have always been able to work up a good line in concert appearances. Right now Garrett is cleaning up. Nothing wrong with that as long as nobody goes around pretending it's some kind of educational campaign. An off-screen record executive got to the root of it. "Lesley's into success," she said. "Of course there's a very strong musical philosophy there, but success is the greater part of our objective."

Anybody looking for televised music with a slightly wider frame of reference will have been heartened by the previous Saturday's *World Music Night*, tucked away at half past midnight on BBC2. Taken from a public performance in Maastricht, it gave lengthy airtime to several stars of the scene including singer Cesaria Evora and percussionist Trilok Gurtu. The staging was austere and some of the performances actually quite bland. But it was a foot in the door, and it shows how the programme makers are starting to adjust their sights

On British radio, world music remains in an unsettled state with Andy Kershaw's Radio 1 show pushed back to midnight on Thursdays and the Radio 3 Sunday half-hour currently stuck in a long series of repeats. What Radio 3 needs is its own Kershaw, somebody to bring the world scene passionately alive. Come to that, the original Kershaw might do nicely – the space to hear a broader repertoire from him would certainly be welcome.

Radio discovery of the week was Shostakovich's 12th Symphony. It has so often been dismissed as empty noise that an unexpected encounter with it on Classic FM (Monday) came as a shock. Bombast it wasn't, at least as played on CD by the Concertgebouw Orchestra with Bernard Haitink.

This performance gradually amassed weight and breadth to finish with terrifying intensity. Shostakovich knew how to make music scream in a major key. With the years, each of his once-notorious brassy finales shows its different character ever more clearly: No 5 deadpan, No 6 like the circus, No 7 wholehearted, No 12 positively agonised. How did nobody notice?

A masterclass in metaphor

Last week, three pianists galvanised audiences with their approaches to Beethoven, Debussy and new works

SIGHT READINGS

MICHAEL CHURCH

IF BACH'S 48 preludes and fugues are the Old Testament of music, Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas are the New, and pianists are drawn to them like moths to a flame. Some players get burnt, others retire singed, but the wonder is how many contrive such varied results while staying strictly faithful to the score. This is why the early recorded cycles by Schnabel, Backhaus and Kempff (and the recent ones by Brendel, Pollini, Goode and Perl) are all to be treasured. And this is the reason people flock to check out each new contender.

French-Canadian Louis Lortie is the new kid on the block, and his opening recital at the Wigmore last Friday put him straight up there among the gods.

Playing with very little pedal and a complete lack of pomp, he delivered five early sonatas with such bracing clarity that even the hackneyed Pathétique emerged fresh and new. All the poetry was there, but so was the grotesquerie and the Punch and Judy stuff. Not even the mobile phone let off (twice!) by some nerd in the stalls could destroy the magic of the event.

Lortie has hitherto been known as a supreme virtuoso in Liszt and Chopin, but Beethoven is the composer he prefers to teach his students at Imola, though with no sense of do-as-I-do – or as the dead greats have done it. "I tell them the answers are all there in the score," he says. Beethoven is, in his view, a fine weeder-out of self-aggrandising fakes: "This sort of music demands an absolute respect for history." I would have thought that spreading his sonata cycle over four months was a leisurely approach, but Lortie insists that it's a challenge. Each concert has to be perfect and must give the impression that Lortie has been doing nothing but prepare for it; he tapes and analyses the results. When I mention that I have been sent a set of his private recordings of his own live performances, some of which are markedly more exhilarating than his commercial releases on the Chandos label, his reaction is one of horror, but then he becomes thoughtful. Would Chandos one day release these? "I would love them to, but they never will. They feel they must have homogenised perfection. If you listen to my commercial recordings, you would think I always produced the same sound, but I play differently each night, and the pianos and the halls are all different. Many of my colleagues feel the same way about this and about being governed by that little red light in the studio. They all have their own DAT recordings, which they would love to see released. We keep hearing about the record companies' cash problems, so why don't they do this? It would be infinitely cheaper."

Well, why not? A ring-round of the big labels reveals no particular enthusiasm for the idea, though there are shining examples of its success, notably from the late, great Shura Cherkassky and the egregious Evgeny Kissin. As EMI's Peter Alward puts it: "The question is, do we want to be glorified pirates, or presenters of sonic excellence?"

Point taken, but I don't think the question will go away.

WHILE LORTIE was galvanising the Wigmore last Friday, Debussy expert Paul Roberts was performing a similar function at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and he followed it the next day with some illuminating masterclasses. Roberts is the author of a classic study of Debussy's links with painting and literature (*Images*, Amadeus Press), and this session drew its strength from such ideas.

All piano-playing is about illusion (a box of hammers in deep disguise), and it was fascinating to see what musical riches could be unlocked by a verbal phrase. We watched the magnificently named Cosimo Ajmone-Marsan (looking like a cross between Chopin and Aubrey Beardsley) struggle to make sense of Ravel's "Barque sur l'océan", and suddenly succeed under Roberts's injunction to imagine "the ceaseless, irregular motion of the waves".

Music may not be "about" anything else, but metaphor is unavoidable if we want to talk about it.

ON MONDAY another notable London piano teacher took the stage at the South Bank. Andrew Zolinsky may just have won the San Francisco piano competition with a performance of "Rhapsody in Blue", but his goal is to expand the repertoire, and his programme reflected the fact. I had never heard of the Russian composer (cum construction engineer) Valentin Silvestrov and was astonished to see (thanks to their juxtaposition in this programme) how seamlessly his third sonata meshed with Liszt's prophetic "Nuages Gris", composed a century earlier. Zolinsky also gave us a volcanic "Ginastera" sonata, and a mysterious set of Brahms variations which are these days seldom played. Recitals are rarely so riveting.

When Zolinsky can afford it, he commissions new works, but he admits that it's an uphill task, not helped by the kind of radio chat he recently heard between Joan Bakewell and Murray Perahia, where new music was condemned root-and-branch. "If someone like Perahia – who has a huge following – can dismiss everything that is happening now, I really despair for the future," growls Zolinsky. "Andras Schiff is almost as bad. I love his Schubert and Bartok, but I wish he'd play something a bit more unusual."

You listening, Andras? Time to break that mould!

Paul Roberts: an illuminating lesson on Debussy's links with painting and literature *Laurie Lewis*

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S CD RELEASES

IT IS amazing to think that Camille Saint-Saëns was born seven years before Mendelssohn wrote his *Scottish* Symphony, and died six years after Berg completed his *Three Orchestral Pieces*. Talk about spanning the generations. Saint-Saëns was a consummate stylist whose charm, tunefulness and aristocratic invention enriched a large and varied output. Take the First Cello Concerto of 1872, the second movement, in which a long-breathed melody floats across a delicately pointed strings accompaniment, and lyrical ideas sing from virtually every line. Cellists love it, but of recent recordings, none that I have heard quite matches the finesse and tonal lustre of Mischa Maisky with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Maisky's affectionate yet brilliant rendition sits happily among other Saint-Saëns cello works: the dashing First Cello Sonata, the rarely heard Suite, Op 16, and three miniatures: *Romance* in F major, *Allegro appassionato* and, of course, The Swan. Maisky has surely never made a better record. Beethoven was a major influence on Saint-Saëns, and Beethoven's Op 9 String Trios are infused with an abundance of wit and memorable melody. They are also easy to listen to, especially when granted the sort of artful gentility that the Leopold String Trio brings to them. The blend of voices is exquisite, the faster music is played with unassuming virtuosity and the Trio's mastery of rubato seems wholly natural. A companion CD couples the Op 3 and Op 8 trios. Between them, they offer the most sensitive reportage that these works have enjoyed since the advent of digital recording.

As to recorded opera, there is no real substitute for the bustle of live stage action, the thud of boots on boards, lightning vocal exchanges, dares, risks, even occasional misfires. Naxos have been trawling the New York Met's archive, and Austrian Radio's vast storehouse of past operatic productions has already yielded major treasures to Koch, Orfeo, Deutsche Grammophon and EMI. Now RCA are muscling in on the act with their new "Wiener Staatsoper Live" series. Perhaps the most interesting release so far is a 1969 stereo recording of Smetana's *Dalibor*, in which theatrical echoes of *Fidelio* (jailed hero, dungeon scene, heroine disguised as a man) and musical reminiscences of Wagner, Liszt and Schumann seem stronger for being paraded in German. There's also a chance to hear sisters Leonie and Lotte Rysanek vie for vocal supremacy (Act 1, scene 6) as well as some impressive acting from Ludovico Spiess (Dalibor) and Eberhard Wächter (King of Bohemia). Josef Krips presides over a score that sings, dances and proudly protests, pressing forwards only as the drama intensifies.

Saint-Saëns/Maisky: DG 457 599-2 (full price)

Beethoven/Leopold String Trio: Hyperion CDA67254 (full price)

Smetana/Krips: RCA 74321 57735 2 (2 discs, mid price)

Exotic travels through the magic of music

OPERA

MARCO POLO
HAMPSTEAD THEATRE
LONDON

OUR OPERA companies pay dutiful service to new British Opera, but as for what's going on elsewhere, "parochial" is the word that comes to mind.

We get bits of John Adams if we're lucky, perhaps something small from Europe, and that's about it. With new opera so expensive and the audience so small, no doubt the thinking goes: "If we're going to do it, let's at least back Britain." Yet while British opera flounders, other composers in other lands fashion new operatic idioms. Mightn't it be worth seeing what they're up to?

Tan Dun's *Marco Polo* has travelled the world, but has yet to be staged in this country, despite being commissioned by the Edinburgh Festival. It finally reached Britain this week, first Huddersfield, then London, both concert performances; but with the composer conducting the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra the opera cast its spell, staged or not.

Paul Griffiths' condensed libretto allows only the briefest shafts of narrative to illuminate a nearly abstract frieze depicting Polo's travels and travails. The title character requires two performers, Marco, a mezzo-soprano (Laura Tucker) representing something like the historical figure, and Polo, a tenor (Thomas Young, quite wonderful) representing memory. And so it goes on. On paper it can sound confusing, and it didn't help that the synopsis and dramatic personae in the Barbican's programme came from an early, unfinished draft of the opera. Yet with Tan's beguiling music and subtitles to lead us through the labyrinth, the ear intuitively grasped meanings more poetic than literal.

Tan, born in China but resident in New York since 1986, finds no contradiction in honouring traditions both Eastern and Western. Marco Polo quotes from Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (itself a synthesis of Asian and European elements), and opens with a flourish of Peking Opera percussion that rivets the attention as surely as the fanfare that opens Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, 400 years away at the other end of operatic history. And like *Orfeo*, *Marco Polo* journeys through time and across strange landscapes, each generating a musical representation, from the sitar and tabla of the Desert to the ritual horns and singing bowls of the Himalayas and the overtone chants of Mongolia.

This is not tourism by music, but a re-invention of the orchestra – and Tan's players responded, none more so than Ya Dong, whose pipa took us inside Beijing's Forbidden City. But like all operas, *Marco Polo* relies on its singers, and these sang as if their lives depended on it, acting just enough to fracture the decorousness of concert performance. The comic confrontation between Susan Botti's Water and Emily Golden's Sheherazada was a delightful cameo, and Lin Qiang Zu's Li Po, though wielding his fan nonchalantly, had an almost frightening intensity.

Marco Polo manages to be what few contemporary operas are: complex, and elusive, but utterly absorbing. Will any British company stage it the way it deserves?

NICK KIMBERLEY

NEW FILMS

IF ONLY (15)
Director: Maria Ripoll
Starring: Douglas Henshall
Mix *Twelve Monkeys* with *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and you'd get Maria Ripoll's mainly dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy. Henshall stars as a dumped boyfriend who is transported back in time by some mysterious Spanish dustmen. As dopey as it sounds, but a lot less fun. *West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Director: F Gary Gray
Starring: Samuel L Jackson, Kevin Spacey, JT Walsh
Two of modern cinema's current favourites go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama about a negotiator forced to kick up a hostage situation of his own. Originally written for Sylvester Stallone, the script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate and rhetorical performers. However, it doesn't disrupt the wonderfully lonche chemistry between them. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
Director: Stephen Soderbergh
Starring: George Clooney
Elmore Leonard is the source for Stephen Soderbergh's irresistible slice of pulp fiction, involving the usual stuff about eccentric low-lifes, comic cops, and their involvement in intrigues and heists that are far too complicated to take seriously. George Clooney plays the jail-breaking hero, Jack Foley, as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. Suddenly, he seems to be a grown-up film star at a time when most of Hollywood's male heartthrobs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. *West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)
Director: George Cukor
Starring: Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Curzon Soho

THE SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15)
Director: Tamara Jenkins
Starring: Alan Arkin
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Fulham Road

T-REX: BACK TO THE CRETACEOUS (3-D) (U)
Director: Brett Leonard
Starring: Peter Horton
I-Max 3-D dinosaurs are the kind of cute sensation for which cinema was invented, and Leonard's simply-scripted effects showcase lets the reptiles roar in your face, swoop over your head, and pursue you through the trees. But while you see every scale of the tyrannosaurus in living colour, you also get a pin-sharp view of Liz Stauber's zits. *West End: Pepsi IMAX Cinema*

VICTORY (15)
Director: Mark Peploe
Starring: Willem Dafoe, Irene Jacob, Sam Neill
This Euro-funded Conrad adaptation takes us to a sleazy hotel in the South Seas where well-known character actors (Simon Callow, Bill Paterson, etc) favour extravagant facial hair, and the mid-price stars (Jacob, Neill, Dafoe) do some safe, literary acting. *Archers* fans should take a look, as one of the hairier patrons is played by Edward Kelsey, better known as the voice of Joe Grundy. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House*

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)
Director: Po Chih Leong
Starring: Jude Law, Elina Lowensohn, Timothy Spall
Jude Law stars as a contemporary vampire in a designer anorak, who has the decency to wine and dine his victims before he goes for their jugular. A well-intentioned attempt to give the genre an adult twist is undone by a script that can't tell the difference between sophistication and pretentious rambling. *West End: ABC Panton Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House*

Matthew Sweet

GENERAL RELEASE

ANGEL SHARKS (MARIE BAIE DES ANGES) (15)
Manuel Pradal's handsome debut feature has seductive surface qualities, and its disjointed scenes of adolescent decadence are engaging. Despite the spirited sex and violence, though, it's empty, pretentious stuff, a sunny triumph of form over content. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

ANTZ (PG)
Nerd icon Woody Allen provides the voice of worker-ant "Z", who breaks out of his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

BLADE (18)
A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree. *West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

DEAD MAN'S CURVE(15)
All the students at this nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation which awards straight-A grades to room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a fine quota of drive-in shocks. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Virgin Trocadero*

ELIZABETH (15)
Shekhar Kapur's film is the tale of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road*

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)
Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. Incident, caricature and lurid 1970s fashions are substituted for plot and character, and the film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. *West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Richmond Filmhouse, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket*

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)
Phallic skyscrapers, Nietzschean ambition, sex and suicide combine in King Vidor's heady 1949 adaptation of Ayn Rand's novel. Miscast as a modernist architect struggling to impose his vision on the world, Gary Cooper looks rather baffled by it all. A good-looking slice of Freudian madness. *West End: Curzon Soho*

HENRY FOOL (18)
This skewed fable traces the fate of a piece of erotic verse which springs from the head of a garbage man. The story's subtle twists and turns conjure Hartley's latest into a genuine *tour de force*. *West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema*

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)
Krabbe's uncertain soap opera focuses on a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers, plus rising star Laura Fraser. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill*

LES MISERABLES (12)
Bille August turns Victor Hugo's enormous novel into an enormous film, and it's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days – earnest, deferential and almost humourless. *West End: Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys*

MULAN (U)
In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. *West End Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of Britain caught below the poverty line. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket*

RONIN (15)
There's an air of knackered resignation to John Frankenheimer's latest movie, a thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious silver suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. As dull as ditchwater. *West End: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

ROUNDERS (15)
John Dahl's poker-club thriller is an improvement on his last film, the eminently forgettable *Unforgettable*. But its main problem is the weak hand dealt by golden-boy star Matt Damon, who is comprehensively out-acted by almost everyone else. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)
In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. Few viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by catharsis – it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. *West End: Plaza*

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
Peter Weir's comedy about a man (played by Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been televised is very funny, due more to the script than its star's presence. *West End: Gate Notting Hill, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero*

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)
Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Myers) is a Bowie-esque idol; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker. Their story is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) 10 years after the hoax assassination of Slade. Director Todd Haynes has fashioned a masterpiece in which form and content function in mutually-enriching harmony. *West End: Warner Village West End*

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Liese Spencer

GLOOPY COMING-OF-AGE tales are all too common, but The Slums of Beverly Hills offers a refreshingly unsentimental take on the trials of adolescence. Set in the 1970s, this sharp black comedy follows 15-year-old Vivian Abramowitz (a fantastically natural Natasha Lyonne) as she grows up poor in Los Angeles' richest neighbourhood. Along with a great sing-along vibrator scene, the film is well worth seeing for supporting turns by Kevin Corrigan, as Viv's dope-dealing, Mansun-fanatic neighbour, and the superb Alan Arkin as her feckless single dad.
On limited release

Don't miss the re-release of The Philadelphia Story *(above)*, George Cukor's romantic farce about a society wedding between ice-maiden Katharine Hepburn, divorced from millionaire Cary Grant, and the dull, dependable John Howard. Enter journalists James Stewart and Ruth Hussey, in search of scandal. Sparkling wit and polished performances make the film a delight from start to finish.
On limited release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

TONIGHT, THE derelict debating chamber in County Hall will once again resound to animated discussion thanks to an experiment organised by the Brazilian theatre pioneer, Augusto Boal *(below)*. In The Art of Legislation, the man who shook up politics in Rio will be offering the fruit of a week of brainstorming sessions held over here, which dealt with shaping housing, education and transport laws according to instinct. You'll have to take an Internet back seat as tickets have been snapped up by the capital's politicos.
Former GLC Debating Chamber, County Hall, London SE1 (0171-729 7879) 7.30pm
www.innercity.demon.co.uk /boal.htm

Shang-a-Lang, by Catherine Johnson, is a rambunctious comedy about a trio of long-standing women friends who convene for a Bay City Rollers revival evening in Butlin's. Although, the play follows a predictable curve towards self-help, the coarse dialogue raises copious belly-laughs while showing how bitter the taste of teen dreams can be, years on.
Bush Theatre, London W12 (0181-743 3388) 8pm

Pop Tim Perry

THE ONLY UK show this year by the The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion promises rock in a sleazy, dirty, gritty vein. The mission of the former Pussy Galore guitarist and his crew is to drag the blues into the 20th century, and, as their current album, *Acme*, shows, they do it superbly, with layers of hip-hop, punk and early rock'n'roll spilled over the Delta influences. Tickets are at a premium, but it's the event of the of the weekend.
Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0171-771 2000) tonight 7.30pm

These days, live performances by Björk *(above)* seem, unfortunately, to be increasingly rare affairs. Beguiling and unpredictable, her shows always promise surprises, be they in the stage sets, spectacular costume changes or the sheer number of musicians and strings. One thing's for sure: that unique voice will entrance.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) tonight 7.30pm; Palladium, London W1 (0171-494 5030) Sun 7.30pm

Classical Duncan Hadfield

THE BARBICAN'S exciting "American Pioneers" series is drawing to a close, yet before it does, there is the chance to experience music by one of the most pioneering US voices of them all – that of Harry Partch. Partch, who died in 1974, was such a rule-breaking iconoclast that he even built his own instruments on which to perform his idiosyncratic creations. Never seen in the UK before, those instruments now arrive in London played by Newband, under the leadership of Partch-disciple Dean Drummond.
Barbican Hall, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm

The organist David Briggs will need to keep body and soul together this evening when he launches into the delivery of an intriguing-sounding 75-minute piece on the new organ at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. The work in question is none other than Mahler's monumental five-movement Fifth Symphony, in Brigg's own transcription. Potential sonorities could be fascinating, but will the magnum opus hang together? There's only one way to find out.
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (0161-907 9000)

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870-902 0418) ⊖ Baker Street Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm If Only 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) ⊖ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) ⊖ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.45pm Rien Ne Va Plus 4.30pm, 8.55pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Negotiator 2.20pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican US Highball and the Dreamer That Remains: A Portrait of Harry Partch 5pm Out of Sight 6pm, 8.40pm Ronin 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) ⊖ Sloane Square My Name is Joe 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) ⊖ Clapham Common Fire 4.45pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Slums of Beverly Hills 3.45pm, 8.45pm Victory 1.30pm, 6.45pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.45pm, 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) ⊖ Green Park Left Luggage 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) ⊖ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road The Eel (Unagi) 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Fire 1pm, 6.30pm The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm Henry Fool 3.20pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) ⊖ Elephant & Castle Antz 4pm, 6pm Blade 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Out of Sight 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Ronin 8.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) ⊖ Leicester Square Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm, 11.40pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm, 11.40pm Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm, 11pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate Buffalo 66 11.15pm My Name Is Joe 4.25pm Pi 8.50pm (+ Q & A with director Darren Aronofsky) The Truman Show 2.10pm, 6.40pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-907 0718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm Blade 8.40pm Mulan 1.30pm, 3.50pm The Negotiator 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Ronin 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) ⊖ Charing Cross Das Schloss 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Insomnia 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge La Vie Revée des Anges 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) ⊖ Camden Town Antz 11.40am, 1.40pm, 3.40pm Blade 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm Dead Man's Curve 11.20pm Mulan 12.40pm The Negotiator 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm, 11.05pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm Ronin 3.05pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.25pm Rounders 3.15pm, 8.35pm Snake Eyes 12.55pm, 6.10pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(08705-050007) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(08705-050007) ⊖ High Street Kensington Antz 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.30pm, 9.25pm, 12.20am Dead Man's Curve 12.05am Elizabeth 12.35pm, 6.20pm If Only 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm, 12.20am Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm, 12.10am Rounders 3.25pm, 9.10pm Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.15am

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Square Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) ⊖ Marble Arch Antz 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Blade 12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 12midnight The Negotiator 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm, 12.10am Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm, 11.55pm Ronin 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm, 11.45pm Rounders 6.20pm, 9.10pm Snake Eyes 6.20pm, 12midnight

ODEON MEZZANINE
(08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm If Only 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(08705-050007) ⊖ Swiss Cottage Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Blade 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Elizabeth 2.45pm, 8.15pm If Only 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Ronin 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Rounders 12.10pm, 5.30pm

ODEON WEST END
(08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Square Les Misérables 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA
(0171-494 4153) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Across the Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) 12.45pm, 5.05pm Everest 3pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-444 6789) ⊖ East Finchley My Name Is Joe 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

PLAZA
(0990-888990) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Antz 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm For Richer or Poorer 1.15pm, 4pm Primary Colors 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) ⊖ Russell Square Henry Fool 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm The Knowledge of Healing 1.05pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland My Name is Joe 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) BR/⊖ Brixton Antz 2.15pm, 4.10pm Blade 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9pm, 11.30pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.40pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.50pm Henry Fool 6.15pm My Name Is Joe 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm (+ Short: The Man Who held His Breath) Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm (+ Short: Vacuum) Rounders 9.05pm, 11.45pm Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.35pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-935 2772) ⊖ Baker Street Out of Sight 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Slums of Beverly Hills 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) ⊖ Angel Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 11.30pm The Negotiator 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) ⊖ Belsize Park Left Luggage 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990-888990) ⊖ Queensway Antz 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm Blade 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Mulan 3pm The Negotiator 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Primary Colors 9.05pm Ronin 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Small Soldiers 1.10pm Snake Eyes 5.15pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) ⊖ Sloane Square Antz 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1pm, 3.30pm Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Rounders 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 9pm There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-907 0711) ⊖ South Kensington Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm If Only 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm The Negotiator 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm A Perfect Murder 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Ronin 1pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-907 0712) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 8.35pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Rounders 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Blade 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm Dead Man's Curve 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9pm, 11.30pm Mr Nice Guy 12midnight The Negotiator 2pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm, 11.40pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm The Player's Club 11.50pm There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm The Truman Show 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) ⊖ Leicester Square Blade 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, 12midnight The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 11.55am, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm, 11.20pm Hope Floats 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm, 11.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm The Negotiator 12noon, 2pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 6pm, 8.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm, 12midnight A Perfect Murder 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm Rounders 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm Velvet Goldmine 9.30pm, 12.10am.

CINEMA
LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) ⊖ Park Royal Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Blade 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm, 12.30am The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9.10pm, 12.05am Jackie Chan's First Strike 11.20pm + Mr Nice Guy Hope Floats 12.30pm, 3.10pm Mulan 1pm, 4pm, 7pm The Negotiator 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 9pm, 12.10am Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm, 12.20am A Perfect Murder 6.30pm The Player's Club 12midnight Ronin 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Rounders 4.10pm, 9.20pm Small Soldiers 1.20pm, 4pm Snake Eyes 7.20pm, 10pm, 12.25am There's Something About Mary 6pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm The Truman Show 1.40pm, 7pm

BARNET
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ High Barnet Antz 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm Blade 2.25pm, 5.10pm, 8pm If Only 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Out Of Sight 1.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.15pm Ronin 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Snake Eyes 8.50pm

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Antz 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm The Land Girls 6.45pm Mulan 12.10pm Out Of Sight 2.30pm, 6pm, 9pm Ronin 3pm, 9.30pm Small Soldiers 12.20pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Blade 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm, 12.25am Elizabeth 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 7.10pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Hope Floats 2.05pm, 4.35pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.50pm, 12.20am The Negotiator 12.05pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm, 12.15am Out of Sight 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am Ronin 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.35pm, 12.20am Rounders 12.10am Small Soldiers 12.10pm, 2.35pm, 5pm Snake Eyes 10.10pm, 12.15am There's Something About Mary 7.25pm, 9.40pm The Truman Show 12noon, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 9.25pm, 11.50pm

BROMLEY
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North Antz 1.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 7.20pm Blade 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.35pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9.30pm Out Of Sight 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm

CATFORD
ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford Antz 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Blade 8.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm Small Soldiers 12.10pm

CROYDON
CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East My Name Is Joe 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm + The Man Who Held His Breath

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. Blade 6pm, 8.15pm Doll Saga Ke Rakhna 10.50pm Out of Sight 6pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Ronin 6.15pm, 8.30pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 11pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm Blade 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm, 12.30am Elizabeth 2pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9.20pm, 12midnight Jackie Chan's First Strike 11.20pm + Mr Nice Guy Hope Floats 1.05pm, 3.35pm Mulan 4.45pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 9pm, 12.10am Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.40pm The Player's Club 11.30pm Ronin 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 12.25am Rounders 7pm Small Soldiers 1.45pm, 4.10pm Snake Eyes 9.50pm, 12.15am There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm The Truman Show 6.40pm

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ⊖ Dagenham Heathway Antz 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Blade 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9.20pm, 11.55pm Jackie Chan's First Strike 11pm Hope Floats 2.20pm, 4.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.10am Mulan 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm The Negotiator 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 12midnight Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 12midnight Ronin 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm Rounders 7.15pm Small Soldiers 2.15pm, 4.40pm Snake Eyes 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm, 12.10am There's Something About Mary 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm, 12.10am The Truman Show 7.10pm The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 9.55pm, 12.20am

EDGWARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) ⊖ Edgware Bade Miyan Chote Miyan phone for times Fire phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehndi phone for times Pardeshi Babu phone for times Rounders 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ⊖ Tottenham Hale Antz 2.30pm, 3.15pm, 4.55pm, 5.25pm, 7.50pm Blade 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm, 12.35am Dead Man's Curve 11.30pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.25pm, 12.10 Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 11.10pm Hope Floats 7.15pm If Only 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 8.10pm The Negotiator 1.55pm, 5.15pm, 8.50pm, 12.15am Out of Sight 2.55pm, 6pm, 9.05pm, 11.55pm The Player's Club 10.05pm, 12.45am Ronin 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm, 12midnight Saving Private Ryan 8pm Slums Of Beverly Hills 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Small Soldiers 2.05pm, 3.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm Snake Eyes 10.55pm There's Something About Mary 9.55pm, 12.30am The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Blade 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.10am Doli Sajake Rakhna 11.45am, 2.45pm, 6pm, 9.15pm, 11pm Elizabeth 11am, 1.30pm, 4.10pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 6.50pm, 9.10pm, 12midnight If Only 11am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm, 11.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.45pm Mehndi 11.45am, 6.20pm, 11.40pm The Negotiator 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 12.15am Out of Sight 11.30am, 2pm, 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Pardeshi Babu 2.50pmm, 9.55pm Ronin 11.25am, 1.55pm, 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm, 12.15am Small Soldiers 3.55pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 12noon, 3.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.50pm, 12midnight There's Something About Mary 11am, 1.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm The Truman Show 11.50am, 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 10pm, 12.15am

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) ⊖ East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm Blade 12.35pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Elizabeth 5.50pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 8.40pm Hope Floats 1pm, 3.40pm, 7pm Mulan 1.20pm, 3.30pm The Negotiator 11.55am, 2.50pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11.50pm Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm Ronin 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Rounders 8.50pm, 11.30pm Small Soldiers 12.50pm, 4pm Snake Eyes 12midnight There's Something About Mary 9.30pm The Truman Show 6.30pm

FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) ⊖ Finchley Road Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10.25pm Blade 1.15pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.55pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.30pm Hope Floats 1pm, 6.15pm If Only 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Les Misérables 3.30pm, 9pm The Negotiator 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Ronin 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Rounders 7.30pm, 10.05pm

GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) ⊖ Golders Green Elizabeth 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 11.55pm **The Negotiator** 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 11.25pm **Out Of Sight** 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm **Rounders** 4.25pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) ⊖ Belsize Park **Antz** 1.40pm, 3.40pm **Out of Sight** 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm **Ronin** 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Slums of Beverly Hills** 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone **Doli Sajake Rakhna** 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm **The Soldier (Asian Film)** 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill **Antz** 1pm, 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9pm **Blade** 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm, 12.15am **Elizabeth** 6.30pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 9.20pm, 11.50pm **Hope Floats** 4.30pm **Les Misérables** 12.10pm, 5.50pm **Mulan** 12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm **The Negotiator** 11.30am, 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm, 11.40pm **Out Of Sight** 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight **Ronin** 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm, 12.10am **Rounders** 3pm, 8.40pm **Small Soldiers** 12.35pm, 3.05pm **Snake Eyes** 5.30pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm, 12.30am **There's Something About Mary** 4.30pm, 9.50pm, 12.15am **The Truman Show** 1.50pm, 7.10pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ Holloway Road/Archway **Antz** 12.10pm, 2pm, 4.05pm, 6pm, 8.10pm **Blade** 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm **Dead Man's Curve** 10.15pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 9.30pm **If Only** 12.10pm, 2.35pm, 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.50pm **The Negotiator** 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm **Out Of Sight** 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm **Ronin** 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm **Rounders** 3.25pm, 7.55pm **Snake Eyes** 1pm, 5.35pm, 10.05pm **There's Something About Mary** 6pm **The Truman Show** 1.15pm, 3.50pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ Gants Hill **Antz** 12.55pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.20p **Blade** 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 8.15pm **If Only** 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm **Mulan** 12.40pm **Out Of Sight** 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm **Ronin** 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) ⊖ Kilburn **The Adventures of Robin Hood** Thur 3pm **My Name Is Joe** 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston **Antz** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm **Out Of Sight** 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.05pm **Ronin** 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ Highgate **Antz** 1.30pm, 3.45pm **Blade** 5.45pm, 8.15pm **Mulan Sight** 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm **Ronin** 3.05pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye **Antz** 12.20pm, 4pm, 5.50pm, 7.40pm **Elizabeth** 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 11.30pm **Mulan** 12.10pm **The Negotiator** 2.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm, 11.25pm **Out of Sight** 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9pm, 11.40pm **A Perfect Murder** 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 11.50pm **Ronin** 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm **Snake Eyes** 9.30pm, 11.35pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley **Antz** 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm **Out of Sight** 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 8pm **Ronin** 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) ⊖ Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. **Antz** 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm **Elizabeth** 9.15pm **The Negotiator** 2.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm **Out of Sight** 2.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/⊖ Richmond **The Negotiator** 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm **Out Of Sight** 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm **Ronin** 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/⊖ Richmond **Antz** 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm **Blade** 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm **Elizabeth** 3.40pm, 9pm **Rounders** 1.10pm, 6.10pm **Slums Of Beverly Hills** 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford. **Antz** 5.55pm **Blade** 8.25pm **Out Of Sight** 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm **Ronin** 2.20pm **The Wisdom Of Crocodiles** 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford **Antz** 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm **Blade** 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 3.45pm, 8.50pm **If Only** 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm **Les Misérables** 8.05pm **The Negotiator** 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm **Out Of Sight** 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm **Ronin** 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm **Rounders** 1.15pm, 6.25pm **Small Soldiers** 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.50pm **There's Something About Mary** 8.20pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup **Antz** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm **Out Of Sight** 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm **Ronin** 8.15pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood **Antz** 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 9pm **Blade** 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, 12midnight **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 9pm, 12midnight **The Negotiator** 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.45pm, 11pm **Out of Sight** 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm, 12midnight **Ronin** 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm, 11.15pm **There's Something About Mary** 3.30pm, 6.10pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill **Antz** 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm **Out Of Sight** 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **The Wisdom Of Crocodiles** 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/⊖ Brixton **Blade** 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm **If Only** 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm **The Negotiator** 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm **Ronin** 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/⊖ Stratford East **Antz** 12.45pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm, 8.30pm **Blade** 1.15pm, 6pm, 10.50pm **The Negotiator** 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.20pm **Out Of Sight** 1pm, 3.30pm, 8.15pm, 10.45pm **The Wisdom of Crocodiles** 3.45pm, 8.35pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) ⊖ Surrey Quays **Antz** 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.30pm **Blade** 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm **Elizabeth** 3.30pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 8.45pm, 11.30pm **Hope Floats** 5.50pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 11.55pm **Les Misérables** 6.35pm **Mulan** 2pm, 4.15pm **The Negotiator** 3.40pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm **Out Of Sight** 4.05pm, 7pm, 9.55pm **The Player's Club** 10.05pm **Ronin** 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm **Rounders** 9.20pm **Small Soldiers** 3pm **There's Something About Mary** 9.15pm **The Truman Show** 6.10pm **The Wisdom of Crocodiles** 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 10.10pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊖ Turnpike Lane. **Antz** 4pm, 6pm **Elizabeth** 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm **Out Of Sight** 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm **Ronin** 8.25pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) ⊖ Walthamstow Central **Antz** 1.40pm, 3.40pm **Blade** 8.15pm **Out of Sight** 2.05pm, 4.50pm, 8.10pm **Ronin** 5.30pm **The Wisdom Of Crocodiles** 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames **Antz** 3.40pm **The Negotiator** 5.25pm, 8.10pm **Out of Sight** 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham **Antz** 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm **Out Of Sight** 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ⊖ Willesden Green **Rounders** 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/⊖ Wimbledon **Antz** 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm, 6.45pm **Blade** 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 11.10pm **The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease)** 11.15pm **If Only** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm **Out Of Sight** 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm **Ronin** 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **Rounders** 8.30pm **Snake Eyes** 11.15pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ⊖ South Woodford **Antz** 2.15pm, 5.30pm **Blade** 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm **Out Of Sight** 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm **Rounders** 8.20pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal **Antz** 4pm, 6pm **Blade** 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm **Ronin** 8.25pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) **Les liaisons dangereuses (NC)** 7.30pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) **The Chalet School Revisited (NC)** 7pm (+ Short) **Elke Krystufek: Shorts (NC)** 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) **The One That Got Away: Roy Ward Baker (NC)** 2.30pm **Quatorze Juillet: Education (NC)** 6.15pm **The Philadelphia Story (U)** 6.20pm **Metropolis (PG)** 7.30pm **Easy Rider (18)** 8.30pm **High Society: Desert Island Movie (U)** 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) **East Side Story (U)** 1pm **Fire (15)** 6.30pm **Razor Blade Smile (18)** 9pm **The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15)** 11.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) **Lucie Aubrac (12)** 6.30pm + **The Land Girls** 8.45pm

VENTURE CENTRE Wornington Road W10 (0181-960 3234) **Friday Massive Video's Video Cafe: Monthly Event (NC)** 7pm-11.30pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) **My Name is Joe (15)** 1.30pm, 8.45pm **Character (15)** 6.30pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) **Delicatessen (15)** 2pm **Funny Games (18)** 6.45pm **La Vie Revée des Anges (18)** 4.15pm, 9pm **Dobermann (18)** 11.15pm

BRISTOL
CUBE (0114-907 4191) **Alice (12)** 7pm **Faust (15)** 9.15pm **Razor Blade Smile (18)** 11.30pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) **Short Film Conference (NC)** 10am-4.30pm **My Name Is Joe (15)** 6pm **DePICT! Awards (15)** 6.30pm **Character (15)** 8.20pm **Best of British Shorts 2 (NC)** 8.30pm **Cert X Programme 1:Late Night Line Up (NC)** 10.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) **La Vie Revée des Anges (18)** 12.45pm, 7.10pm **Rien Ne Va Plus (15)** 3pm, 9.15pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18)** 11.30pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) **Velvet Goldmine (18)** 6.15pm, 8.40pm **LFF on Tour: The Importance of Being Earnest (U)** 7pm **Funny Games (18)** 8.40pm **LFF on Tour: Via Satellite (NC)** 8.50pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) **Microcosmos (U)** 2pm **La Grande Illusion (U)** 6pm **A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries (15)** 6pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) **Velvet Goldmine (18)** 5.30pm **Angels with Dirty Faces (NC)** 8.15pm **Fame (U)** 11.15pm

OXFORD
PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-512526) **My Name is Joe (15)** 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm **Rien Ne Va Plus (15)** 4.45pm, 9pm **Stop Making Sense (PG)** 11.30pm **There's Something About Mary (15)** 11.30pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ◗ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only Matinees — (1): Sun, (3): Tue, (4(: Wed, (5(: Thur, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

◗ **ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS** Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,]5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

◗ **AMADEUS** David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,]4] 2.30pm,]7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

◗ **ANNIE** Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/⊖ Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4)[7) 2.30pm, (1) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

○ **ART** Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (4) 3pm, [7][1) 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

◗ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, WI (0171-656 1888) ⊖ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)]7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

◗ **THE BEST OF TIMES** Revue-style show featuring the songs of Jerry Herman. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊖ Charing X. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, (4)[7) 3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

◗ **BLUEBIRD** New drama telling the bleak and violeot stories of a cabbie's fares. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tonight 9pm, 10p-£10, Mon - all seats £5, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

◗ **BOOGIE NIGHTS** Shane Richie stars in a new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ⊖ Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm,]6) 5.30pm, [7) 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150 mins.

◗ **BRITANNICUS** Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens are directed by Jonathan Kent in Racine's tragedy of maternal manipulation. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 12 Dec, £5-£29.50.

● **BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, Fri mats half price. 160 mins.

◗ **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

○ **CHICAGO** Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4)(7] 2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins.

◗ **CINDERELLA** Angela Carter's version of this fairy tale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith. Tonight 7pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50, Nov 28 - all seats £10, concs £5.

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, (1) 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10. 120 mins.

● **DEAD MONKEY** Nick Darke's black comedy stars David Soul. Whitehall Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735/cc 0171-867 1111) BR/⊖ Charing X. Tue-Sat 8.30pm, (6)[7(5.30pm, ends 19 Dec, £19-£25. 120 mins.

● **DR DOLITTLE** Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊖ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4([7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● **FAME THE MUSICAL** High-octane stage show charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊖ Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 30 Jan, £15-£30. 120 mins.

◗ **GREASE** Energetic version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4][7] 3pm, £10-£30. 150 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5(3pm, [7] 4pm, £8-£29.50. 165 mins.

◗ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (4)2.30pm, (7) 5pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

○ **INTO THE WOODS** Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairy tales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

◗ **THE INVENTION OF LOVE** Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poet AE Houseman, author of *The Shropshire Lad*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 180 mins.

● **KAFKA'S DICK** Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊖ Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, £12-£30.

● **LOVE UPON THE THRONE** Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊖ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm,]4][7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan, £6-£25.

◗ **MISS SAIGON** Musical which resets the *Madam Butterfly* tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,]4)[7] 3pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

◗ **LES MISÉRABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece of crime and retribution. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5](7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins.

◗ **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm,]3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mins.

○ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4([7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

◗ **RENT** Musical inspired by *La Boheme* and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ⊖ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,]4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
○ **OLIVIER:** Antony and Cleopatra Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman star as the sensually self-destructive lovers. Mon-Sat 7pm, [7] 1.30pm, ends 3 Dec. 240 mins.

● **LYTTELTON:** Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the *Carry On* actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins.

○ **COTTESLOE:** Haroun and the Sea of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 6 Jan. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) ⊖ Embankment.

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,]4((7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/⊖ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

◗ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,]5][7] 3pm, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

◗ **IN THE FAMILY & TRADE** Depiction of a dysfunctional family from Richard Oberg. Preceded by a short. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tonight 7.15pm, continuing, 10p-£10. Mon - all seats £5, double bill (7.15pm & 9pm performances on same night) £7.50-£15.

◗ **THE WEIR** Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4)(7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

◗ **WEST SIDE STORY** Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5](7] 3pm, £15-£35. 160 mins.

○ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5](7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

◗ **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEIDA THEATRE The Storm Frank McGuinness's new version of Ostrovsky's uplifting drama. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 19 Dec. £6.50-£19.50. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) ⊖ Angel/Highbury & Islington.

ARTS THEATRE Ecstasy Mike Leigh's moving comedy is presented by About Face. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, ends 20 Dec. £12.50-15.50, concs £7.50-£10.50. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334/cc 741 9999) ⊖ Leicester Square.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars in David Halliwell's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-£16, concs £6. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ⊖ Swiss Cottage.

RICHMOND THEATRE The Memory of Water Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.45pm. £8-£21. The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088)

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

BATH
THEATRE ROYAL The Woman In Black Frank Finlay stars in a chilling adaptation of Susan Hill's highly acclaimed novel. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm. £7-£21.50, concs available. Sawclose (01225-448844)

BRIGHTON
THEATRE ROYAL Whatever Happened to Baby Jane Stage version of the cult Warner Bros film which featured Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.45pm. £8.50-£19.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-328488)

KOMEDIA Hitler's Women Story of two women, Eva Braun and Nancy Mitford, who were seduced by Hitler and fascism. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm. £7.50, concs £6. Gardner Street (01273-277772)

BRISTOL
THEATRE ROYAL A Christmas Carol Andy Hay's adaptatioo of Charles Dickens's Christmas classic. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat, 2.30pm, ends 5 Dec. £5-£19, concs £3-£16. King Street (0117-987 7877)

BURY ST EDMUNDS
THEATRE ROYAL Our Country's Good Study of the civilising power of theatre by Timberlake Wertenbaker. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.30pm. £5 £12. Westgate Street (01284-769505)

CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE DRAMA CENTRE Stranded Powerful tale inspired by Ugo Betti's *Crime on Goat Island*. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm. £7.50, concs £5. Covent Garden (01223-322748)

CARDIFF
NEW THEATRE Richard III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.30pm. £8-£18.50, concs available.
Handbag or The Importance of Being Someone Mark Ravenhill's new drama looks at the art of parenting in the age of sexual diversity. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm. £8, concs available. Park Place (01222-878889)

ST DAVID'S HALL Richard III Robert Lindsay stars as the notorious historical villain. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.30pm, phone for prices. The Hayes (01222-878444)

CHICHESTER
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Reduced Shakespeare Company speed through 37 plays. 27 & 28 Nov, 5.30pm & 8.30pm. £5-£21, concs available. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

IPSWICH
WOLSEY THEATRE Macbeth Wolsey Theatre's production is given a post-nuclear holocaust setting. Tue-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 5 Dec. £5-£14, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

NORWICH
MADDERMARKET THEATRE The Fall of the House of Usher Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Edgar Allen Poe's Victorian horror story. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. £4-£6.50, concs available. St Johns Alley (01603-620917)

THEATRE ROYAL Grease Luke Goss stars in the stage version of the hit film. Mon-Thur, 7.30pm, Fri-Sat, 6pm & 9pm. £3.50-£23.50, concs available. Theatre Street (01603-630000)

PETERBOROUGH
KEY THEATRE A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens' Christmas classic marks the Key Theatre's 25th birthday. Tue-Thur 7.30pm, Fri-Sat, 5pm & 8pm, ends 28 Nov. £9-£11.50. Embankment Road (01733-552439)

PLYMOUTH
DRUM THEATRE, THEATRE ROYAL Roberto Zucco Drama inspired by a wanted poster, written by Koltes and directed by James Macdonald. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm, £12-£20, concs available. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

THEATRE ROYAL Twelfth Night Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's most popular play for the RSC. 27 & 28 Nov, 7.30pm. £6.50-£34, concs available. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

SALISBURY
SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Just Between Ourselves Alan Ayckbourn's comic look at relationships. Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, ends 28 Nov. £8-£15, concs available. Malthouse Lane (01722-320333)

SOUTHAMPTON
MAYFLOWER THEATRE Blood Brothers Willy Russell's class-conscious musical about twins set in Liverpool. 27 & 28 Nov, 6pm & 9pm, £12.50-£24.50. Commercial Road (01703-711811)

NUFFIELD THEATRE Love Off the Shelf Romantic musical play about a struggling writer and his assistant. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, ends 28 Nov. £5.95-£12.50, concs available. University Road (01703-671771)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic. Tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

WOKING
NEW VICTORIA THEATRE The Crucible Arthur Miller's tale of persecution during the Salem witch hunts. 27 & 28 Nov, 8pm. £6-£16. Peacocks Arts & Entertainments Centre (01483-761144)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA is Shakespeare's instructive comedy on how not to conduct a love affair. When two friends, Valentine (Tom Goodman-Hill) and Proteus (Dominic Rowan), fall for the same woman, their friendship takes a back seat as they vie for her affection. This production sets the play in a modern Italian city, and is directed by Edward Hall, son of Sir Peter Hall, who directed the RSC's first production of the play in 1960.
The Pit Theatre, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) opens 21 Dec

Last Call
DESPITE THEIR low profile in recent years, New Order (*right*) remain an influential band. Since rising from the ashes of Joy Division in 1980 and releasing the seminal best-selling "Blue Monday", New Order have been synonymous with the new wave of electro-pop tagged as the "thinking person's dance music". After a recent temporary hiatus, they are now signed to London Records and played a well-received headline slot at last year's Reading festival. Speculation abounds that a new album is on the way.
Manchester Evening News Arena (0161-950 5000) 29 Dec; Alexandra Palace, London (0181-365 2121) 31 Dec

EXHIBITIONS

BRIGHTON
BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition. Mon, Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Church Street (01273-290900)

CAMBRIDGE
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM From Polidoro to Salvator Rosa Collection of drawings and prints forming the best of Italian Baroque. Ends 23 Dec. British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable. Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistler, Fantin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

LONDON
HAYWARD GALLERY Addressing the Century: 100 Years of Art and Fashion Celebrating links between art and fashion with over 250 exhibits including work by Dali, Matisse and Gilbert and George. Mon, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Jan. £6, concs £3.50, family £12. Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

ICA GALLERY Die Young Stay Pretty Sculpture, collage, paintings and cut outs by 11 young, romantic artists. Mon-Sun 12noon-7.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £1.50, concs £1, Sat-Sun £2.50, concs £1.50. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) ⊖ Charing Cross.

NATIONAL GALLERY Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller on Reflection Mirrors and reflections in art from Van Eyck to Helen Chadwick. Ends 13 Dec. £5.50, concs £3.50, incl audio guide.
A College Collection: Paintings from Christ Church, Oxford Old Master paintings and drawings including Van Dyck and Carracci. Ends 29 Nov, free.
Luca Signorelli in British Collections Drawings and paintings by the artist who influenced Raphael and Michelangelo. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) ⊖ Charing Cross, Leicester Square.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Critical Mass: Antony Gormley Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-Sun all day, ends 16 Dec. Free.
Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay Exploring the ceramic works of the 20th-century artist. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 16 Dec. £7, OAP/UB40 £6, NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1.
Life? Or Theatre?: The Work of Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) ⊖ Green Park.

TATE GALLERY In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Ends 28 Feb, free.
Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Ofili, Cathy De Monchaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Ends 10 Jan. £1.50.
John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19th century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm, ends 17 Jan. £6, concs £4. Millbank, SWI (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Aubrey Beardsley The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 drawings and prints. Ends 10 Jan.
Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving Works by the 17th-century woodcarver. Ends 24 Jan.
Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshaw Precious-metal jewellery. Ends 15 Feb.
Elsewhere - Photographs from the Americas and Asia: Henri Cartier-Bresson Lesser-known subjects by the 90 year-old photographer. Ends 12 Apr.
The History of Photography: A Selection from the Collection Work by leading photographers throughout history. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. £5, concs £3, under 18's, UB40/disabled/mems/after 4.30pm free. Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8441) ⊖ South Kensington.

OXFORD
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Gustav Metzger Work by the artist known for the Destruction in Art Symposium in 1966.
Mitja Tusek Large paintings. Tue & Wed, Fri-Sun 11am-6pm, Thur 11am-9pm, ends 10 Jan. £2.50 (free Wed am & Thur pm), concs £1.50, child free. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

ST IVES
ST IVES TATE GALLERY English Roots: Eric Cameron Many layers of paint surrounding organic objects. Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

CLASSICAL

LONDON
ST ANDREW HOLBORN London Handel Orchestra/Darlow Music by Handel plus Daniel Purcell and Maurice Greene. Tonight 7.30pm. £10-£20 *from* 0171-936 3606. Holborn Circus, EC4 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Holborn.

PURCELL ROOM Feinstein Ensemble of London/Feinstein Baroque Concertos by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£12 South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

NORTHAMPTON
THE DERNGATE Mozart Festival Orchestra/Watson Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with other Baroque classics. Tonight 7.30pm. £9.50-£21. Guildhall Road (01604-624811)

OPERA

LONDON
COLLEGE OF NORTH-WEST LONDON A Dinner Engagement/Amahl and the Night Visitors One-acters by Lennox Berkeley and Menotti. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£9.50. Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 (0181-902 5734) ⊖ Dollis Hill/Neasden.

LONDON COLISEUM Boris Godunov Mussorgsky's epic in a new English National Opera production directed by Francesca Zambello. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ⊖ Leicester Square.

DANCE

LONDON
ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight performers create a witty rhythmic symphony. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 4pm, ends 27 Dec. £10-£25. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420 0000) ⊖ Chalk Farm.

SADLER'S WELLS Dance Umbrella: Ballett Frankfurt Three inventive and theatrical works introduce William Forsythe's acclaimed company to the UK. Tonight 7.30pm. £10-£37.50. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000) ⊖ Angel.

NEWTOWN
THEATR HAFREN Diversions Dance Company: Double Bill A steamy work by Toni Mira and a new work by American choreographer, Bill T. Jones. Today 1.30pm, £7.50. Llanidloes Road (01686-625007)

LITERATURE

BURY ST EDMUNDS
LOYD GROSSMAN - FOOD FOR THOUGHT LITERARY DINNER Grossman talks about *The 125 Best Recipes Ever*, his new book and shares foodie anecdotes. The Angel Hotel Angel Hill (01284-753926) Tonight 7pm. £34, book in advance.

LONDON
BLACK WRITERS: LITERATURE EVENT Discussion focusing on Buchi Emecheta's book, *Second Class Citizen*. Borders Oxford Street W1 (0171-287 1592) ⊖ Oxford Circus. Tonight 7pm, Free.

TWICKENHAM
JAMES FOX The author of *White Mischief* talks about his new book about the world of the Langhorne Sisters. York House Gardens Richmond Road (0181-744 0547) Tonight 8pm, £6, concs £4.

COMEDY

CRAWLEY
ARDAL O'HANLON - SPINNING PLATES AT THE HAWTH The star of *Father Ted*. Tonight 8pm. £12.50. Hawth Avenue (01293-553636)

LONDON
JEFF GREEN - LOVE BITES AT APOLLO THEATRE Self-deprecating stand-up. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 5 Dec. £10 & £15. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5072) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus.

JONGLEURS BOW Simon Clayton, Perrier Award winner Tommy Tiernan, Gina Yashere, The Man with the beard, juggling comic Steve Rawlings. Tonight 8.15pm, £12, concs £8. Grove Road, Bow Wharf, E3 (0171-564 2500/cc 924 2766) ⊖ Mile End.

CLUBS

BATH
KARANGA AT THE PAVILION Mixmag night with Seb Fonatine Marc and Vedo spinning house'n'garage. Tonight 9pm-2am. £10, £8 in adv. North Parade Road (01225-316198)

LONDON
INSPIRATION INFORMATION AT THE NOTTING HILL ARTS CLUB Patrick Forge and Phil Asher drop soul, jazz, drum'n'bass and Latin disco. Tonight 5pm-1am. Notting Hill Gate, W11 (0171-460 4459) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate. £4, concs £3, free before 8pm.

EVENTS

KING'S LYNN
WINTER WONDERLAND Light show with 75,000 bulbs in various colours and designs. Nativity scenes, decorated floats, ponies pulling Cinderella carriage, Father Christmas Grotto and more. Kyng's Lynn Speedway Stadium Saddlebow Road (01553-771111) 4.30pm-9.30pm closed 25 Dec, ends 1 Jan £4, OAP £3, child (5-14) £2, family £10 (2 adults, 2 children), under 5s free.

LONDON
CANAL OBJECTS: EXHIBITION Practical and decorative objects related to canals and their users. London Canal Museum New Wharf Road N1 (0171-713 0836) ⊖ King's Cross. Tue-Sun 10am-4.30pm, ends 31 Jan, £2.50, concs £1.25.

PLYMOUTH
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FESTIVAL Grand exhibition of Arts and Crafts from woodturning and log boxes to fudge and sugarcoated almonds plus many more hand made gifts ideas. Street entertainment, demonstrations, fairground rides. City Centre Armada Way (01803-322634/327822) Mon-Wed 9am-6pm, Thu 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm, ends 6 Dec, free

MUSIC
POP

HASTINGS
HANK MARVIN *In and Out of The Shadows* tour for the guitar legend. White Rock Theatre White Rock (01424-781000) Tonight 7.30pm, £14.50-£15.50.

LONDON
SLAYER, SEPULTURA, SYSTEM OF A DOWN Heavyweight transatlantic metal line-up. Astoria Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £14.

SPACE Tommy Scott's quirky and successful pop outfit. Brixton Academy Stockwell Road SW9 (0171-771 2000) BR/⊖ Brixton. Tonight 8pm, £11.50.

JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION Influential, stripped-down US rock'n'roll outfit with a much-imitated searing intensity. Shepherd's Bush Empire Shepherd's Bush Green W12 (0171-771 2000) ⊖ Shepherd's Bush. Tonight 7.30pm, £10.

OXFORD
TEN BENSON Electric, pseudo-redneck lo-fi from London. The Point The Plain (01865-798794) Tonight 8pm, phone for prices.

POOLE
SQUEEZE, DEAN JOHNSON Bittersweet South London pop from Difford, Tilbrook, and Co. Poole Arts Centre Kingland Road (01202-685222) Tonight 8pm, £10-£14.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BATH
GRAND UNION ORCHESTRA World music big band play music by Tony Haynes. Bath University Hall Claverton Down (01225-826612) Tonight 7.30pm, £8, concs available.

LONDON
GUY BARKER QUINTET Leading British jazz trumpet practitioner. Blackheath Halls Lee Road SE3 (0181-463 0100) BR: Blackheath. Tonight 8.30pm, £12.50, concs £10.

GIL SCOTT-HERON Influential 1970s poet and singer who crosses danceable funk with political polemic. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) ⊖ Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £16, adv £13.50.

HARLEM GOSPEL SINGERS New York's hot choral ensemble perform without their founder Queen Esther Marrow. Peacock Theatre Portugal Street WC2 (0171-863 8222) ⊖ Holborn. Tonight 8pm, £7.50-£27.50.

STAN TRACEY QUARTET Modern jazz pianist's outfit featuring trumpeter Gerard Presencer. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, adv £16.

MAYNARD FERGUSON'S BIG BOP NOUVEAU Bombastic Canadian trumpeter in the 1950s big band tradition. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) ⊖ Leicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm, £12, mems £4, NUS £8 (Mon-Thur); £15, mems £8 (Fri-Sat)

THE AVERAGE WHITE BAND Scottish funk veterans of "Pick Up the Pieces" fame. Sound Republic Wardour Street W1 (0171-413 1423) ⊖ Leicester Square, Picadilly Circus. Tonight 7pm, £12.50.

OXFORD
TREVOR WATTS MOIRE MUSIC Alto and soprano saxophonist's world music ensemble. St. Barnabas Church Jericho (01865-351142) Tonight 8pm, £9, concs £6.

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. **9.00** Simon Mayo. **12.00** Kevin Greening. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Chris Moyles. **5.45** Newsbeat. **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection. **9.00** Judge Jules. **11.00** Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. **2.00** Fabio and Grooverider. **4.00 - 7.00** Emma B.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** John Inverdale. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** Des Lynam. **7.00** Hubert Gregg. **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night: Introduced by Brian Kay from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Vernon Handley conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, with guest artist Rosalind Sutherland and Vincenzo La Scola. At 8.15, the interval item is performed by Empire Brass. **9.15** Wuthering Heights: Paul McGann continues a seven-part reading of Emily Bronte's classic tale of passion, jealousy and revenge. 3: Edgar Linton has fallen in love with Cathy, but her feelings for him are ambivalent. **9.30** Listen to the Band: Frank Renton presents the second of two programmes featuring selections of this year's Brass in Concert championships, recorded at Spennymoor in the north east of England. **10.00** David Jacobs. **10.30** Sheridan Morley: Radio 2 Arts Programme: a weekly round-up from the arts world, with reviews, previews and music. **12.00** Nicky Horne. **4.00 - 6.00** Lata Sharma.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Josquin.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Music Restored.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. The first in a season of concerts in which the BBC Philharmonic perform Rachmaninov's three symphonies from Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. This concert was given last Saturday. Conductor Vassily Sinaisky, Dmitri Sitkovetsky (violin). Prokofiev: Russian Overture. Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No 1. Rachmaninov: Symphony No 1 in D minor.
9.20 Postscript. Nicholas Ward Jackson explores the contemporary art world. Tonight, he talks to sculptor Richard Wentworth about the exhibition 'Thinking Aloud'. Devised by Wentworth, the show brings together a bizarre collection of art objects and artefacts, including paintings by Churchill, a wooden mole trap, a tally stick from the Bank of England, as well as works by Gilbert and George and Rachel Whiteread.
9.45 Beethoven. Six songs to poems by Gellert. Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone), Hertha Klust (piano).
10.00 Hear and Now. Highlights from the twenty-first annual contemporary music festival, and a review of the festival's history. Luis de Pablo: Segunda Lectura (first UK performance). Nuove Sincronie/Renato Rivolta. Simon Holt: A Book of Colours. Rolf Hind (piano). James Dillon: Hyades (first performance). Soli-Tutti/Denis Gautheyrie.
11.30 Punk Jazz.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; Desert Island Discs.
9.45 Serial: The Interesting Narrative.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Strictly Conventional. See *Pick of the Day*.
11.30 Girlies. (R)
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Screen Test.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Writing Home.
3.00 NEWS; Making History.
3.30 Up on the Manor. (R)
3.45 Feedback.
4.00 NEWS; What Does Mr Swanzy Want?.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six o'Clock News.
6.30 True Lies.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the nightly arts programme.
7.45 Still Waters. Part 15 by Sergio Casci. Kate and Douglas become involved in the rescue of a young girl from the clutches of a mysterious cult. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie, Liam Brennan and James Bryce. Director David Jackson Young.
8.00 NEWS; Any Questions?.
8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana.
9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: From Salford to Jericho. Poetry written and read by Simon Armitage, created from verbatim interviews with over fifty homeless people. Mags has come to find her brother Billy, who lives on the streets in Manchester, but Billy will not go home. He is not alone in a city with a story to tell. With Siobhan Redmond and Alastair Gilbraith. Devised and directed by Kate Rowland. (R)
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a fractious family and a dying soldier reveal the past's power to haunt and distort the present. Abridged by Doreen Estall, read by Robert Glenister (5/10).
11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd hosts another edition of the late-night sports chat show.
11.30 Notes from the Ditch.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: A Man in Full.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 Leisure Update.
5.56 - 9.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast. **11.30 - 12.00** Today in Parliament. **2.30 - 8.45** Test Match Special.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his guests look back over the week and preview the weekend's sporting action, which will centre around the second cricket Test between Australia and England in Perth, the ATP World Championships in Hanover and the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury.
10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **6.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto: Tartini: Cello Concerto in D. Mstislav Rostropovich, St Paul CO/Hugh Wolff. **3.00** Jamie Crick. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert: Wagner: A Faust Overture. Seattle SO/Gerard Schwarz. Rossini: Sonata No 1 in G for strings. Bologna Theatre PO/Riccardo Chailly. Puccini: Capriccio Sinfonico. Berlin RSO/Riccardo Chailly. Mozart: Piano Quartet in G minor, K478. Alfred Brendel (piano), Thomas Zehetmair (violin), Tabea Zimmermann (viola), Richard Duven (cello). Verdi: The Four Seasons. Bologna Theatre PO/Riccardo Chailly. **11.00** Alan Mann. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. **9.30** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Harriet Scott. **7.00** Wheels of Steel. **11.00** Janey Lee Grace. **2.00 - 9.00** Richard West.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** To Be Continued. **1.45** Poems by Post. **2.00** Newsday. **2.30** People and Politics. **3.00** World News. **3.05** World Business Report. **3.15** Sports Roundup. **3.30** Science in Action. **4.00** Newsdesk. **4.30** Weekend. **5.00** Newsday. **5.30** Outlook. **5.55 - 6.00** Spotlight.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **11.00** Lorraine Kelly. **1.00** Anna Raeburn. **3.00** Tommy Boyd. **5.00** Peter Deeley. **7.00** Nick Abbot. **10.00** Mike Allen. **2.00** Mike Dickin.

PICK OF THE DAY

YOU DON'T have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great. Also, it's lonely at the top, but you eat better. The first in a new series on professional gatherings, **Strictly Conventional (11am R4)**, finds Quentin Cooper among motivators at the National Speaker's Association in Philadelphia, being encouraged to reach out for the greatness in himself. It's a rare batch of sententiousness and absurdity – one speaker tells how his speech on leadership, with its eight main points, was turned down in favour of a rival's speech which had 10. Cooper's flippancy, which is sometimes a little hard to take, seems like a human, indeed, very responsible reaction to his situation.

ROBERT HANKS

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 The Underworld (1997) (62804). **6.00** Bogus (1996) (36060). **10.00** First Kid (1996) (83282). **12.00** The Underworld (1997) (59911). **2.00** Taken Away (1996) (35669). **4.00** Bogus (1996) (1756). **6.00** First Kid (1996) (15805). **8.00** The Ghost and the Darkness (1996) (10350). **10.00** Money Train (1995) (715737). **11.50** Mistrial (1996) (806008). **1.25** The Portrait of a Lady (1996) (80492008). **3.50 - 6.00** Virtuosity (1995) (91166374).

SKY MOVIEMAX
8.00 Ebirah - Horror of the Deep (1966) (31468). **7.30** A Fight for Justice (1996) (82331). **8.00** Family Blessings (1996) (58282). **11.00** Behind the Waterfall (1995) (69534). **1.00** Ebirah - Horror of the Deep (1966) (69398). **3.00** A Fight for Justice (1996) (76485). **5.00** Family Blessings (1996) (31331). **7.00** Preview (1379). **7.30** UK Top Ten (5447). **8.00** Femmes Fatales (9517). **8.30** Movie Magic (9534). **9.00** The Associate (1996) (28379). **11.00** Out for Justice (1991) (202973). **12.40** Cobra (1986) (3622481). **2.10** The Perfect Weapon (1991) (7130393). **3.40 - 6.00** Suite 16 (1995) (63387312).

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962) (63187737). **6.05** The Lighthorsemen (1988) (13115981). **8.00** The Conversation (1974) (8034973). **10.00** To Live and Die in LA (1985) (1373602). **11.55** Frenzy (1972) (6758802). **1.50** Quintet (1979) (6056041). **3.50-5.25** How to Marry a Millionaire (1953) (2732003).

FILMFOUR
8.00 Short Attention Span Cinema (3233843). **8.00** Walking and Talking (1996) (3205060). **10.00** Fetishes (7098669). **11.30** My Own Private Idaho (1991) (3989992). **1.10** What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (1994) (9289954). See *Pick of the Day*. **3.05 - 6.00** Arizona Dream (1993) (16008041). See *Pick of the Day*.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World (9267089). **4.30** Walker's World (9256973). **5.00** First Flights (3716060). **5.30** Ancient Warriors (9270553). **6.00** Animal Doctor (9277465). **6.30** Wild Discovery: Ocean Wilds (9268716). **7.00** Wild Discovery: Ocean Wilds (3736824). **7.30** Beyond 2000 (9257602). **8.00** The Mosquito Story (9580350). **9.00** Crocodile Hunter (9500114). **10.00** Real Lives: The Fugitive (9570973). **11.00** Weapons of War: Scorched Earth (7148718). **12.00** Real Lives: Underwater Cops (7678454). **1.00** First Flights (6423134). **1.30** Ancient Warriors (7001935). **2.00** Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

JOHNNY DEPP *(right)* has never been afraid to make brave or unusual career choices – neither *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* nor *Edward Scissorhands* could be deemed conventional movies. In a double-bill of his work, **What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (1.10am FilmFour)**, a moving drama about a boy who looks after his retarded brother, is followed by **Arizona Dream (3.05am)**, an odd comedy about inventing a flying machine.

Film-makers have long been fascinated by prisons – look at the popularity of such films as *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Dead Man Walking* and *Papillon*. Two episodes of the documentary series **Behind Bars (10pm and 11pm The History Channel)** show the reality of life in two of America's most notorious jails: the ultra-strict Eastern State Penitentiary and the USA's first federal prison, Leavenworth.

JAMES RAMPTON

SKY ONE
7.00 The Simpsons (76176). **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (17027). **8.30** Hollywood Squares (54282). **9.00** Guilty! (26244). **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (84195). **11.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (64331). **12.00** Jenny Jones (1970602). **12.55** The Special K Collection (38130621). **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9232466). **1.55** The Special K Collection (65405485). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (8828027). **2.55** The Special K Collection (4568114). **3.00** Jenny Jones (7358337). **3.55** The Special K Collection (2554992). **4.00** Guilty! (97058). **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8282). **8.00** Married with Children (3843). **6.30** Friends (4195). **7.00** The Simpsons (9911). **7.30** The Simpsons (3909). **8.00** The Simpsons (5331). **8.30** The Simpsons (4466). **9.00** The World's Scariest Police Chases 2 (51260). **10.00** Cops (66027). **10.30** Cops (42447). **11.00** Friends (47517). **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (72669). **12.30** Renegade (33935). **1.30 - 7.00** Long Play (4980645).

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30 Futures in Sport (86089). **7.00** Sky Sports Centre (7826244). **7.15** World Wrestling (285398). **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (8087992). **8.30** Racing News (39195). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (20447). **9.30** Futbol Mundial (65008). **10.00** Golf - Johnnie Walker Super Tour (45244). **12.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (33911). **12.30** The Rugby Club (84398). **1.30** Futbol Mundial (68195). **2.00** Athletics (71058). **3.00** Golf - Johnnie Walker Super Tour (98621). **5.00** Motor Sport: Champion of the Future (6069). **5.30** What a Weekend (3244). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (77843). **7.00** World Powerboat Championships (9553). **7.30** Gillette World Sport Special (3621). **8.00** Golf - Johnnie Walker Super Tour (72114). **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (51621). **11.00** Hold the Back Page (25466). **12.00** Sky Sports Centre (28664). **1.00** World Wrestling (57041). **3.00** Golf - Johnnie Walker Super Tour (32954). **5.00 - 6.00** Sky Sports Centre (74867).

SKY SPORTS 2
6.45 Aerobics - Oz Style (6821244). **7.15** Sky Sports Centre (9301195). **7.30** Racing News (8285640). **8.00** What a Weekend (4677621). **8.30** International Cricket South Africa v West Indies (3372869). **10.30** What a Weekend (4696756). **11.00** International Cricket South Africa v West Indies (4518456). **3.30** Trans World Sport (4782945). **4.30** H2O Hoya Royal Lymington Cup (8953175). **5.00** World Powerboat Championships (4419331). **5.30** Gillette World Sport Special (8977756). **6.00** Wild Spirits (8974669). **6.30** H2O Hoya Royal Lymington Cup (8958621). **7.00** Friday Night Football Barnsley vs Huddersfield (1581496). **10.00** Athletics (8662060). **11.00** Wild Spirits (4887843). **11.30** H2O Hoya Royal Lymington Cup (7692089). **12.00** Motor Sport: Champion of the Future (2469374). **12.30** Rebel TV (3802041). **1.00** Hold the Back Page (2410664). **2.00** International Cricket Australia vs England (6886916). **4.30** Gillette World Sport Special (6002935). **5.00 - 6.00** International Cricket (7731886).

SKY SPORTS 3
11.30 Futures in Sport (53254060). **12.00** Trans World Sport (71856224). **1.00** Tight Lines (65551832). **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (51658008). **3.30** American Football Notre Dame vs LSU (93074737). **5.30** Rebel TV (52206485). **6.00** Motorcycling (21877992). **8.00** International Cricket (21889737). **10.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (53264447). **12.00** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Snowboarding (13621). **8.00** Bobsleigh (4840). **9.00** Alpine Skiing (68244). **10.00** Football (83640). **12.00** International Motorsports Magazine (73027). **1.00** Tennis (9154422). **4.30** Rally (7060). **5.00** Alpine Skiing (3992). **6.00** Tennis (8553). **6.30** Tennis (69843). **8.30** Alpine Skiing (18843). **9.30** Boxing (7476). **10.00** Bobsleigh (53089). **11.00** Xtrem Sports: Yoz Action (22621). **11.30** Bobsleigh (14669). **12.30** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (7164756). **7.30** Neighbours (8160447). **7.55** EastEnders (3006669). **8.30** The Bill (6375060). **8.00** The Bill (6399640). **9.30** Bergerac (3171350). **10.30** Angels (6395824). **11.00** Dallas (5165824). **11.55** Neighbours (35251973). **12.25** EastEnders (24584466). **1.00** Juliet Bravo (2297718). **2.00** Dallas (8906963). **2.55** The Bill (1407973). **3.55** Bergerac (6682824). **4.55** EastEnders (4089534). **5.30** Angels (9272911). **6.00** Due South (2200282). **7.00** The Comedy Alternative: May to December (3811486). **7.40** The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (2550485). **8.20** The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (5805756). **8.00** Men Behaving Badly (9838992). **9.40** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (33483114). **10.45** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (6316176). **11.25** The Bill (4142602). **11.55** The Bill (5107404). **12.25** Dr Who Omnibus (61884022). **2.40 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (36963206).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (2543756). **8.00** The Roseanne Show (6366553). **9.50** The Jerry Springer Show (8561669). **10.40** Michael Cole (8456737). **11.30** The Heat Is On (4965485). **12.00** Living Issues (9065843). **12.30** Rescue 911 (4002373). **1.00** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (4408440). **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (4740805). **2.05** Rolonda (3064805). **2.55** Living It Up! (8608756). **3.55** The Jerry Springer Show (3328263). **4.45** Tempestt (6722398). **5.35** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5223896). **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show (3346992). **7.00** Rescue 911 (1210624). **7.30** Beyond Belief (4647553). **8.00** Ally McBeal (8061027). **9.00** Liz - the Elizabeth Taylor Story (8064114). **11.00** The Sex Zone (7553319). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 WCW Nitro on TNT (70576244). **11.35** WCW Thunder (58270534). **1.15** Soylent Green (1972) (90312003). **3.00** Valley of the Kings (1954) (60288954). **5.00** Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Clueless (7195). **7.30** Desmond's (1263). **8.00** Roseanne (6843). **8.30** Just Shoot Me (5350). **9.00** Ellen (23350). **9.30** Seinfeld (47602). **10.00** Jack Dee Live at the London Palladium (8066447). **11.15** Lancelot Link Secret Chimp (171263). **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show (97195). **12.00** The Late Show with David Letterman (24206). **1.00** Sledge Hammer (1319). **1.30** The Critic (51867). **2.00** Dr Katz (21799). **2.30** Soap (68028). **3.00** Girls on Top (26883). **3.30** Nightstand (24886). **4.00** Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.30 Newsline 6.30 (331). **9.30** Do You Come Here Often? (251718). **10.20** Dangerfield (851466). **11.10** Jim Davidson - So Far (986447). **12.00** The Stand-Up Show (40577). **12.30** Film: Darkman (58393). **2.00** BBC News 24 (2705732).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
12.25 Botannan Araid Uilelm (9682331). **12.30** Na Luchagan Fhiacla (9619804). **12.35** An T-Oilamh Seileasdar (47043114). **6.00** Six o'Clock News (379). **6.30** Reporting Scotland; Weather (331). **10.20** Friday Sportscene (319973). **10.50** Jim Davidson - So Far (562621). **11.40** Stand-Up Show (353805). **12.10** Film: Darkman (7061799).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.30 Wales Today (331). **10.20** Peter Kerrie Unmasked (319973). **10.50** Jim Davidson - So Far (562621). **11.40** The Stand-Up Show (353805). **12.10** Film: Darkman (306480). **1.45** BBC News 24 (38161003).

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (9609008). **1.00** Split Second (20973). **1.30** Home and Away (67534843). **1.55** The Jerry Springer Show (3234621). **2.35** A Splash of Colour (5603621). **5.10** Shortland Street (4354824). **5.40** News; Weather (824553). **6.00** Home and Away (227992). **6.25** Anglia News (448114). **10.00** News (83319). **10.30** Anglia News (587640). **11.30** Jerry Springer (768263). **12.10** Soundtrax (8913867). **12.30** Pirate TV (13935). **1.00** God's Gift (54303). **2.00** ClubaVision Rewind (3914664). **2.45** The Haunted Fishtank (31409). **3.15** Film: The Hi-Jackers* (6824770). **4.25** Heirloom (78501515). **4.55** Nightscreen (15544683). **5.00** Coronation Street (48848).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (9609008). **1.00** Echo Point (20973). **2.40** Heart of the Country (2961398). **5.10** Shortland Street (4354824). **5.40** News (824553). **6.00** Home and Away (227992). **6.25** Central News (448114). **10.30** Central News (587640). **11.30** Nash Bridges (350398). **3.35** Jobfinder (660246). **5.20** Asian Eye (3463846).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (376535). **12.15** HTV News (3362447). **1.00** Shortland Street (20973). **1.30** Home and Away (55485). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (6582529). **2.40** Animal Country (2961398). **5.10** A Country Practice (4354824). **6.00** Home and Away (227992). **6.25** Wales Tonight (448114). **10.00** News; Weekend Weather (83319). **10.30** HTV News (587640). **11.30** The Jerry Springer Show (768263). **12.10** Soundtrax (8913867). **12.30** Pirate TV (13935). **1.00** God's Gift (54303). **2.00** ClubaVision Rewind (3914664). **2.45** The Haunted Fishtank (31409). **3.15** Film: The Hi-Jackers* (6824770). **4.25** Heirloom (78501515). **4.55** ITV Nightscreen (15544683). **5.00** Coronation Street (48848).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 2.40 Relative Knowledge (2961398). **6.25** HTV West Weather (868398). **6.30** West Tonight (517).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (376535). **12.15** Meridian News and Weather (3362447). **1.00** Shortland Street (20973). **1.30** Home and Away (67534843). **1.55** The Jerry Springer Show (3234621). **2.35** Summer Festivals (5603621). **5.10** Home and Away (4354824). **5.37** The Listings (960195). **5.40** News; Weather (824553). **6.00** Meridian Tonight (31805). **10.30** Meridian News (587640). **11.30** The Jerry Springer Show (768263). **12.10** Soundtrax (8913867). **12.30** Pirate TV (13935). **1.00** God's Gift (54303). **2.00** ClubaVision Rewind (3914664). **2.45** The Haunted Fishtank (31409). **3.15** Film: The Hi-Jackers* (6824770). **4.25** Heirloom (78501515). **4.55** ITV Nightscreen (15544683). **5.00** Freescreen (48848).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (376535). **12.15** Westcountry News (3362447). **12.27** Illuminations (8617027). **1.00** Step in Faith (20973). **2.40** Westcountry Update (2961398). **6.00** Westcountry Live (31805). **10.00** News (83319). **10.30** Westcountry News (587640). **11.30** Party in the Park (25840). **12.30** Pirate TV (13935). **1.00** God's Gift (54303). **2.00** ClubaVision Rewind (3914664). **2.45** The Haunted Fishtank (31409). **3.15** Film: The Hi-Jackers* (6824770). **4.25** Heirloom (78501515). **4.55** Nightscreen (15544683). **5.00** Coronation Street (48848).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (376535). **12.15** Calendar News and Weather (3362447). **1.00** Home and Away (39403843). **1.25** The Jerry Springer Show (7760485). **2.10** Emmerdale (79540242). **2.40** Shortland Street (2961398). **5.40** News; Weekend Weather (193195). **5.55** Calendar (867391). **6.30** Tonight (517). **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (587640). **11.30** Caprica's Travels (67337). **12.00** Funny Girls - Serious Business (6549041).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News (3362447). **5.55** North East Weather (940331). **6.00** North East Tonight (31805). **10.30** North East News (587640).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgolion/Schools (38452263). **12.00** Judge Joe Brown (73318440). **12.30** Sesame Street (10956465). **1.00** Planed Plant: Ty Rhys a Tomos y Tanc (86331485). **1.30** Film: Cage of Gold* (59753640). **3.00** The Italian Kitchen (65852602). **4.30** Montel Williams (43909176). **5.00** Planed Plant (65964447). **5.30** Countdown (43923756). **6.00** Newyddion (48656776). **6.30** Heno (90874909). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (86133737). **7.25** Y Clwb Rygbi (74067379). **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (65953331). **8.30** Newyddion (65972486). **9.00** Pawb a'i Fam (86434805). **10.00** Brookside (5651905). **10.35** Friends (22563282). **11.35** Eurotrash (83246263). **12.05** TFI Friday (94523206). **1.10** Film: Who's the Man? (65096954). **2.50** Berlin: That Single Feeling (40775515). **3.20** Film: The Model and the Marriage Broker (84876461). **5.10** Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS
JON SPEELMAN

WE ARE told that top footballers make tens of thousands of pounds a week. Chess players, even world champions, have never been regularly remunerated on this scale – let alone the ten times as much mined by the top American baseball players. But Gary Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik will this weekend move temporarily to these stratospheric heights as they contest a 24-game blitz match for the princely sum of $1,000 per win or $500 each for a draw in each 10 minute (ie five minutes for each player) game.

The event, the first of it's kind on anything like this scale, is sponsored jointly by the Internet Chess Club (ICC) and the venue, the Kosmos Hotel, in Moscow.

There are 12 games on both Saturday and Sunday, play starting on each day at 5pm GMT. I realise that only a minority of readers will have access to the Internet at weekends. But those who do can watch the action live and see the commentary of grandmasters and other strong players by joining the ICC at http://www.chessclub.com ($29 for six months plus a surcharge of $16 for both days).

Although chess is generally experienced in the somewhat dessicated context of moves printed on a page, viewed live, even virtually, it is infinitely more interesting. The match should be a lot of fun, if demanding on people's phone bills, eyes and the patience of any civilians resident with them.

While I've never seen either of these great players play blitz for any extended period, I would certainly expect positional chess of a pretty high standard, albeit interspersed with the odd blunder. This game was their first blitz play-off after two Quickplay draws at the Moscow leg of the Professional Chess Players (PCA) Grand Prix – and the play over the weekend should be even better since they won't have undergone the transition from Quickplay to Blitz.

Kasparov obtained some pressure against the isolated d pawn after the opening but got into trouble after 29...g5! and 32...g4! when the threat of 33...Rh6! forced him to jettison the e pawn. Kramnik's technique then looked very smooth.

White: Gary Kasparov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Moscow PCA-Grand Prix 1996
Symmetrical English

1.c4 c5	34.Bxf3 Rxc3
2.Nf3 Nc6	35.Rc1 Re5
3.Nc3 Nf6	36.Kf2 Kg7
4.c3 e6	37.Rc4 Ra5
5.d4 d5	38.Rc3 Rb5
6.cxd5 exd5	39.h4 h6
7.Bb5 cxd4	40.Kc3 a5
8.Nxd4 Bd7	41.Kf2 Rd4
9.0-0 Bd6	42.g3 Rc5
10.Nf3 a6	43.Rc7 Ra4
11.Be2 Be6	44.Rc3 Bg6
12.a3 0-0	45.Rb3 Rc4
13.b4 Qe7	46.g4 Rc2
14.Bb2 Rfe8	47.Rb2 Rxd2+
15.Nd4 Be5	48.Rxd2 f6
16.Nxc6 bxc6	49.Kg3 Rc5
17.Na4 Bxb2	50.Kf4 Rc3
18.Nxb2 c5	51.Rb2 Rxa3
19.bxc5 Qxc5	52.Rb7+Kf8
20.Nd3 Qd6	53.Rd7 Ra4+
21.Nf4 Bf5	54.Ke3 f5
22.Bf3 Rad8	55.h5 Be8
23.Qd4 Be4	56.Rxd3 fxg4
24.Be2 Bf5	57.Be4 Bxh5
25.Bf3 Be4	58.Rd6 Kg7
26.Be2 Bf5	59.Rd7+Kf6
27.Qb4 d4	60.Rd6+ Kg5
28.Qxd6 Rxd6	61.Bc2 Ra3+
29.Rfd1 g5	62.Kf2 g3+
30.Nh5 Nxh5	63.Kg1 Bf3
31.Bxh5 d3	White resigns
32.Rd2 g4	
33.f3 gxf3	

BRIDGE
ALAN HIRON

"WHAT DID you do on board 19?" It was a typical start to the conversation after a session in a big pairs event. "Not too well," said the first player "East played in 3NT and, rather foolishly, I led ♣Q. Now they made 10 tricks and minus 630 was well below average. What about you?"

"I opened a 12-14 no-trump with the South hand, West doubled, and all passed. West led ♠6 and, hoping for the best, I tried dummy's ♠Q. When this held, I was able to finesse in clubs and take five tricks in the suit. I think that minus 100 must have been a top."

Then they turned to the third player who looked even smugger than the second. "I also played in 1NT doubled and got the same led of ♠6. But I played low from dummy and won East's nine with my king. Then I led ♠10, and West, after brooding for a bit, ducked. Dummy's queen won, and now the five club tricks gave me my contract!"

That was certainly a top, although en route declarer had risked a vast penalty. There were two points of technical interest – clearly East-West would have done better to go for their vulnerable game rather than take the 500 points that best defence would have given them. And, in the play, East's contribution of ♠9 at trick 1 was rather futile. He would have done better to follow with ♠2 to suggest three cards in the suit rather than a possible doubleton.

East-West game; dealer South

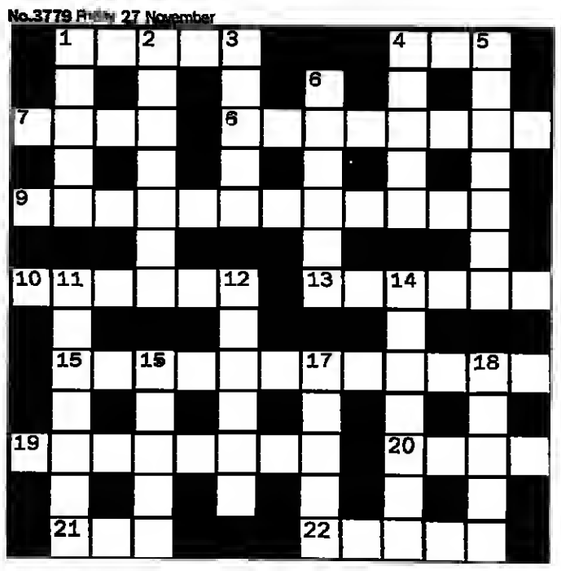
North
♠Q 8 5 4
♡8 7 2
♢9 5 3
♣6 4 2

West	East
♠A J 7 6	♠9 3 2
♡A Q 10	♡K 9 4 3
♢A Q J	♢K 8 7 6
♣10 8 7	♣K 9

South
♠K 10
♡J 6 5
♢10 4 2
♣A Q J 5 3

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3779 Friday 27 November



ACROSS
1 Garment for the shoulders (5)
4 Meadow (3)
7 Asian desert (4)
8 TV programme (4,4)
9 Murderous (12)
10 Narcotic drug (6)
13 Critic's article (6)
15 Undogmatically (4-8)
19 Located (8)
20 Flying toy (4)
21 Female sheep (3)
22 Additional clause (5)

DOWN
1 Glower (5)
2 US state (7)
3 Lawful (5)
4 Itemises (5)
5 Follower (7)
6 Sword (6)
11 Solemn undertaking (7)
12 Hostility (6)
14 Style of pullover (1-6)
16 Escape (5)
17 Low point (5)
18 Afterwards (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Trip, 4 Ticks (Triptychs), 9 Anger, 10 Leonine, 11 Ladyship, 12 Pick, 13 Antilogarithm, 17 Robe, 18 Wondrous, 21 Crouton, 22 Aggro, 23 Downs, 24 Tang. DOWN: 2 Rigid, 3 Parasol, 4 Talking points, 5 Chop, 6 Ski lift, 7 Dahlia, 8 Seek, 14 Tabloid, 15 Radiant, 16 Mascot, 17 Race, 19 Organ, 20 Stew.

SERENA MACKESY
TELEVISION REVIEW

"WHY DO SOVIET leaders only drink herbal tea? Because proper tea is theft," said Jools Holland in a sculpture park filled with redundant Soviet statuary on the outskirts of Budapest in Beat Route (BHC2) last night. Which brought to mind another thought: What's worse than Jools Holland? Jools Holland telling jokes as faded in the memory as the Evil Empire itself. Or, as the split-screen opening sequence made clear, what's worse than Jools Holland? Two Jools Hollands.

The two Jools Hollands stood on a hilltop overlooking the city so that the Danube was between them – one, you see, in Buda, and one in Pest – and squabbled. Jools One hummed the Blue Danube. Jools Two whined about being interrupted and pointed out that it was a Viennese waltz anyway. This, apparently, is the definitive guide to the world's "coolest" cities, from someone who has been employed as an arbiter of cool for more than a decade.

As you might have noticed, I don't like Jools Holland much. Despite the fact that he has an encyclopaedic understanding of music and Later... has access to better bands than anyone else – much like *The Old Grey Whistle Test* used to outclass *TOTP* every week – his mates-with-the-stars act has the same switch-off factor for me as Chris Evans's. I find his cheeky face automatically sets off that 20th-century neurological phenomenon, Remote Control Finger Twitch.

And although *Beat Route* had some sublime musical moments, not least the stunning gypsy band that closed it (see? I did watch all the way through), this was enough to make me long for Peter Ustinov. Was this travelogue, or a lesson in how "cool" people travel (making outdated jokes about espionage and not even bothering to do enough research to learn how to pronounce Magyar; something even the *Lonely Planet Guide* could tell you. Oh, well. No doubt I'll get a slew of hate mail from people who thought it was terrific. I just have a feeling that I may not be alone.

Meanwhile, ungenerous people like me will have been dismissing *Body Story* (C4) for its simplistic, childlike approach to explaining our inner workings, but I have to admit to being rather charmed by it. The computer graphics of particles – which look suspiciously like red aspirins – speeding through tubes, and last night's representation of the limbic system as a frosted cobweb, reminded me of those great Sixties films like *Fantastic Voyage*, in which miniaturised scientists in submarines had to fight off The Attack of the Pimplet. And the gossipy style, weaving together an event in the life of some invented stranger with the effect it has on their body, has a great giggle factor.

Last night, Greg, a bit of a good-looking twit of a City Boy, went on a bender after getting a promotion and failing to have it away with the girl of his dreams. We, meanwhile, observed the effect of the alcohol on his brain, freezing up the cells in the higher brain and letting the lower, limbic brain, "the lizard in all of us" (and most keenly observable in SWAPS dealers and second-hand car salesmen), free to roam. Greg drank some beers, described himself as a shark, had his trousers unzipped, got locked in a loo, and fell over. And I, roughly speaking, did the same.

BBC1

6 PM

5.00 Business Breakfast (55244). **7.00** News (T) (32718). **5.00** Kilroy (S) (T) (8283331). **5.40** Style Challenge (S) (9026282). **10.05** City Hospital (S) (T) (9160105). **10.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9920379). **11.00** Good Living (S) (T) (9930756). **11.25** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (9933843). **11.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9996916). **12.00** Pass the Buck (S) (4561553). **12.25** Going for a Song (S) (4540060). **12.50** The Weather Show (S) (T) (91968832). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (35805). **1.30** Regional News and Weather (73993114). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (T) (67505331). **2.05** Ironside (R) (9765821). **2.55** Wipeout (R) (S) (2965114).

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (6821398). **3.45** Bananaman (R) (8116640). **3.50** The All-New Popeye Show (R) (T) (3270282). **3.55** Dear Mr Barker (S) (7874669). **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (S) (T) (9827282). **4.35** *Record Breakers* (S) (T) (7497911). **5.00** Newsround (S) (4128621). **5.10** Blue Peter (S) (5440718).

5.35 Neighbours. Can Toadie win Karen back? And other issues (S) (T) (918331).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (379).

6.30 Regional News. And your local weather (T) (331).

7 PM

7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson. Barking consumer affairs (S) (T) (1783).

7.30 Top of the Pops. Five, Celine Dion and R Kelly are in the studio, as are Steps, The Corrs, Sashi and Ruff Driverz (S) (T) (843).

8 PM

8.00 CHOICE **Car Wars.** Follows the anti-car crime initiative "Operation Impact" in Bristol. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (T) (9821).

8.30 In Extreme Danger. A pilot and the freak accident he experienced with his Harrier jump jet – it dropped out of the sky instead of hovering at 100mph (S) (8756).

9 PM

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1718).

9.30 Dangerfield. Nigel Havers' smooth 'n' easy police surgeon tends the wounds of a paranoid supergrass, held in a police safe house in remote Warwickshire, who has been involved in a scuffle with the copper supervising him (S) (T) (251718).

10 PM

10.20 Jim Davidson – So Far. In a sort of BBC variant on ITV's *An Audience with...* Jim Davidson returns to stand-up to talk us through his glittering career and stormy personal life, from winning *New Faces* in 1976 to his present stint on *The Generation Game*. You have been warned (S) (T) (951486).

11.10 The Stand-Up Show. "The absurd improvisational humour" of Sean Cullen is among the acts compared by Ardal O'Hanlon (S) (955027).

11.40 CHOICE **Darkman** (Sam Raimi 1990 US). Better than *Batman* – Liam Neeson is the man with the synthetic skin. See *Film of the Day*, below (Followed by *Weather*) (S) (T) (768832).

1.10 Joins BBC News 24 (86815935). To 7am.

BBC2

7.00 Children's BBC: Hairy Jeremy (R) (S) (5346992). **7.05** Teletubbies (S) (2159534). **7.30** Tom and Jerry Kids (S) (2951973). **7.55** Smart (S) (T) (5253263). **8.20** Robinson Sucroe (R) (S) (T) (9853008). **8.45** Johnson and Friends (R) (S) (6568114). **8.55** Hairy Jeremy (R) (S) (5057465). **9.00** Storytime (S) (7158060). **9.10** See You, See Me (S) (5543534). **9.30** Watch (S) (6100553). **9.45** Come Outside (S) (8105006). **10.00** Teletubbies (R) (S) (11737). **10.30** Megamaths: Tables (S) (9579350). **10.50** Look and Read (S) (9599114). **11.10** Landmarks (S) (T) (9421060). **11.30** English File (S) (3553). **12.00** Testament – the Bible in Animation (S) (T) (33814).

12.30 Working Lunch (29060). **1.00** Johnson and Friends (98823669). **1.10** The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2313756).

2.10 Snooker. David Vine introduces live coverage of the opening eight frames of the first semi-final of the UK Championship from *Bournemouth*. Commentary by David Vine, Rex Edmonds, John Virgo, Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Jim Meadowcroft (S) (71172195).

5.00 The Simpsons. Double bill of. In "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?", Danny DeVito voices Homer's long-lost half-brother. And, at 6.20pm, James Brown is a guest voice as Bart sees a therapist (R) (S) (T) (31718).

6.45 Robot Wars. More jolly japes and scrapes with the hand-made robots. Philippa Forrester and Craig Charles do the introductions, while Jonathan Pearce gets all mock over-excited in the commentary box (S) (471008).

7.15 Electric Circus. Boyzone and Jackie Chan have products to plug (S) (419331).

7.30 Snooker. David Vine introduces further coverage of the first semi-final in Bournemouth, which plays to a finish tonight (S) (21718).

5.30 Gardening Neighbours. The residents' tempers become frayed for the first time as they disagree over plans for their community garden (S) (T) (8398).

9.00 The Fast Show. Begins a rerun of the third series of the influential (and rather funny) comedy sketch show. With Paul Whitehouse, Charlie Higson etc (R) (S) (2060).

9.30 Goodness Gracious Me. The British Asian comedy sketch show presents the Indian Bridegroom Detective and *Blacked-Up Men*, a tribute to the film *Men in Black* (S) (T) (49824).

10.00 Have I Got News for You (S) (83373).

10.30 Newsnight. With Kirsty Wark (T) (464840).

11.15 Stella Street. Al Pacino's terrible secret is revealed (S) (T) (199534).

11.30 Snooker. Highlights of today's first semi-final (S) (771737).

12.10 CHOICE **Clublife 98.** Pete Tong hosts a celebration of the UK's vibrant club scene. See *Music Show of the Day*, below (S) (4560884).

1.40 Cafe 21 (S) (1174886). To 2.15am.

ITV Carlton

5.00 GMTV (9630843).

8.25 Trisha (S) (T) (4672260). **10.25** This Morning (T) (41869621). **12.20** Your Shout (9609006). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (56114). **1.00** London Today (T) (20973). **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (9469602). **2.10** Home and Away (S) (T) (79540242). **2.40** Carlton People (T) (2981398). **3.10** ITN News Headlines (T) (2487621).

3.20 Children's ITV: Wizadore (R) (7466718). **3.30** Archibald the Koala (S) (7640802). **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (S) (2057824). **4.05** Bernard's Watch (4380350). **4.20** Fun House (S) (T) (3286114). **4.50** Top Ten of Everything (2987447).

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (4354824).

5.40 News; Weekend Weather (T) (624553).

6.00 London Weekend Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (447).

6.30 In the Hot Seat. "Classic" clips from LWT chat shows over the past 30 years, featuring David Frost, Russell Harty, Gloria Hunniford, Michael Aspel, Clive Dors, Jimmy Nail, John Lennon, etc etc (S) (617).

7.00 Bruce's Price is Right. Bruce Forsyth is live from Norwich (S) (T) (5689).

7.30 Coronation Street. Des is laid to rest (T) (911).

8.00 The Bill. Quinnan and Holmes come to the aid of a local opera singer, helped by a mysterious new DC, Duncan Lennox. The not very imaginative title of this hour-long episode is *The Fat Lady Singe* (T) (5263).

9.00 Britain's Most Wanted. A cheating wife pays just £2,000 to a hitman to have her husband murdered. That and other tales of true-life crime. Phone free on 0800 555111 if you recognise anyone in the programme, with Penny Smith and Dermot Murnaghan (S) (T) (5027).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (83319).

10.30 London Weekend Tonight (T) (587640).

10.40 Friday Night's All Wright. Centre forward-come-chat-show host Ian Wright exchanges carbon dioxide with Caprice, Mick Hucknell, Another Level, and "The King" (an Elvis tribute performer with, apparently, a difference) (S) (568805).

11.30 Theatreland (S) (67337).

12.00 Funny Girls – a Serious Business (8549041). **12.35** God's Gift (S) (T) (1252848). **1.35** Club@Vision (S) (7804409). **2.15** World Football (32138). **2.45** seeQuest DSV (R) (S) (1195062). **3.35** Trisha (R) (2715664). **4.25** Cybernet (R) (S) (52539022). **4.50** ITV Nightscreen (7986954). **5.30** ITN Morning News (36374). To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (58756).

8.00 Schools: Off Limits (210331). **9.25** Schools at Work (5397485). **9.30** Eureka! (8195621). **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8190176). **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (4077089). **10.10** TVM (33758756). **10.25** Ceraldean 2 (3744911). **10.40** Top! En Espanol (9595398). **11.00** The Technology Programme (4895331). **11.15** Stage One (4618282).

11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (R) (S) (T) (8621). **12.00** Sesame Street (98802). **12.30** I Dream of Jeannie (T) (54758). **1.00** Judge Joe Brown (T) (39401485). **1.25** The Ocean World of John Stonerman (39486176).

1.55 FILM **Sailor of the King** (Roy Boulting 1953 UK). Otherwise known as *Single-Handed*, this was an updating of CS Forester's novel, *Forever England*, to the Second World War. Jeffrey Hunter is the Canadian seaman serving in the Royal Navy, whose actions lead to the destruction of a German battleship. With Michael Rennie, Wendy Hiller and Bernard Lee (94249379).

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (805). **4.00** Fifteen to One (S) (T) (640). **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (7461350). **4.55** Rickl Lake (5017973). **5.30** Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (176).

5.00 TFI Friday. Chat with Eddie Izzard, music from Manic Street Preachers and New Order (S) (39447).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (S) (T) (758398).

7.55 The Political Slot (295973).

8.00 Garden Doctors. The docs transform a bare piece of Derbyshire to create a garden which will satisfy the wildly different gardening tastes of a husband and wife. (T) (2331).

8.30 Brookside. Jimmy advises Peter to look to the future. Ron is determined to find out the truth about Jacquie's involvement with the Farnhams (T) (1468).

9.00 Friends. Rachel and Ross reminisce separately about when they first dated each other (T) (7756).

9.30 Streetmate. Davina McCall scours the streets of Cardiff and Cambridge for likely couples (S) (T) (34992).

10.00 Frasier. Again from the very first series – Frasier is furious to discover that his initiation into manhood has become the subject of a best-selling novel (R) (99331).

10.30 Eurotrash. A kinky acrobat and a big-breasted roller-skater from Italy (S) (T) (711060).

11.05 Harry Hill (849488). **11.35** TFI Friday (S) (T) (340911).

12.40 FILM **Who's the Man?** (Ted Demme 1993 US). The nephew of director Jonathan Demme brings the MTV rap VJs Ed Lover and Dr Dre to the screen as Harlem hairdressers who become cops (T) (839393).

2.20 Berlin... That Single Feeling (T) (1941596).

2.50 FILM **The Model and the Marriage Broker** (George Cukor 1951 US). The excellent Thelma Ritter plays a marriage broker pairing off model Jeanne Crain and X-ray technician Scott Brady (295157). To 4.40am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (2440008). **7.00** WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (6106465). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (9161517). **7.35** Wimzie's House (R) (S) (1610621). **8.00** Havakazoo (R) (S) (2503263). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (2502534). **8.00** Floyd Uncorked (S) (T) (7422502). **8.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (4265398). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (7707391). **10.20** *Sunset Beach* (S) (T) (2043027). **11.10** Leeza (R) (S) (9058992). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (2506350). **12.30** Family Affairs (S) (T) (7444718). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6105756). **1.30** Sons and Daughters (7443089). **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (5751602). **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (6173465).

3.30 FILM **Ivana Trump's For Love Alone** (Michael Lindsay-Hogg 1998 US). Movie version of Ivana's semi-autobiographical novel. Oh yes. Good old Channel 5 doesn't disappoint. A beautiful Czech Olympic skier (played by a certain Sanne Vrae) defects to Austria, where she becomes an international model and begins a relationship with an American business tycoon (T) (9852783).

5.20 The Roseanne Show (3643983).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (5266468).

6.30 Family Affairs. Cat starts to feel uncomfortable about taking advantage of Chris's hospitality. Jack swears that there is nothing going on between him and Maria (S) (T) (5257718).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. Restless Kirsty Young and those news stories (S) (T) (5762718).

7.30 Froetrup on Friday. Marielle Frostrup plugs into the celebrity merry-go-round (S) (5246602).

8.00 Fort Boyard. Some fill folk from Hertfordshire are put to the test on an island fortress off the coast of France by Melinda Messenger and Leslie Grantham. Try it, it's quite fun. Better than the moronic *Gladiators*, for example (S) (T) (9011469).

8.00 FILM **Overkill: the Aileen Wuornos Story** (Peter Levin 1992 US). Well above par TV-movie dramatisation of the true story of the 1990 police investigation which finally tracked down Aileen Wuornos, the USA's first female serial killer (you might remember Nick Broomfield's documentary about Wuornos, a prostitute who murdered her clients). Jean Smart is excellent as the mass murderer (S) (T) (81930869).

10.50 The People vs Jerry Sadowitz. Jerry offers £100 to any woman who can make him laugh (S) (7182534).

11.20 FILM **Body Chemistry 4: Full Exposure** (Jim Wynorski 1995 US). Soft porn thrills (7290114).

1.10 FILM **Le Cage Aux Folles II** (Edouard Molinaro 1980 Fr/It). Disappointing sequel to the terrific 1978 gay farce again stars Michel Serrault and Ugo Tognazzi, but this time wastes them on a dreary storyline (1691664).

2.55 FILM **XXX's & OOO's** (Allan Arkush 1994 US). Four women search for Nashville stardom (6521596).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

CAR WARS (8pm BBC1, *right*) *Police, Camera, Action!* by other means as we go on the road with "Operation Impact" (perhaps not the best name for a campaign involving police car chases) – an attempt to stem Bristol's reputation for being the car-crime capital of Britain. These programmes seem to appeal to various forms of human nature, none of them particularly highly evolved. There's the vigilante pleasure of watching car thieves being chased and cornered, the secret hope that we might see some vicarious motoring carnage, and the perhaps futile notion that any of this is making a blind bit of difference. But hey, but that's entertainment.

MUSIC SHOW OF THE DAY

CLUBLIFE 98 (12.10am BBC2) Given its cultural influence over the past decade, and its youthful demographic, the club scene has been strangely neglected by television. Perhaps hard core clubbing is a minority pursuit; perhaps there's only so much viewers can take of lithesome, sweaty limbs moving to the beat. *This 90-minute special with Pete Tong (right)* takes an overview – returning to his Chicago roots with seminal warehouse DJ Frankie Knuckles, surveying the Ibiza scene and talking to the likes of Prodigy and Massive Attack. It takes itself mightily seriously at times, and the thought occurs that the time might soon be ripe for a clubbing *This is Spinal Tap*.

FILM OF THE DAY

DARKMAN (11.40pm BBC1) "A Universal horror film of the Thirties on LSD", was one critic's opinion of *Evil Dead* director Sam Raimi's witty and energetic reworking of the misunderstood monster genre. Liam Neeson (*right*) is the inventor of a synthetic skin which conceals disfigurement but dissolves in sunlight, who's left for dead by a gangster face-down in his own invention. Patched up and ready to go, he's now a master of disguise, out for revenge and to win back the hand of his beloved, Frances McDormand. The suitably mock operatic score is by *Batman* composer Danny Elfman, and this movie is, in some respects, superior to that film.